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The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

WORLD CLUB CUP
FULL REPORT FROM TOKYO

Dutch boss under threat

International League and Cup results

WORLD CUP DRAW

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ITALY LOOK LIKE WINNERS AS THE SMOKE CLEARS

Keir Radnedge reports from Rome

but World Cup lucky dip is bad news for England

AN ALMOST eerie coincidence emerged from the draw for the 1990 world Cup finals at the Palazzo dello Sport here in Rome.

It was as if the smoke which had been blown across the stage and into the audience for Giorgio Moroder's dancers had masked some more sinister spirits.

The fact that England must repeat their European championship tussles with Holland and the Irish Republic was on element of the mystery.

But much more remarkable was the spell cast over hosts Italy by events at the centre of the EUR complex which had been built on Mussolini's orders in he 1930s.

Then, as now, Italy were World Cup hosts. Then, as now, their road involved thwarting the challenges of the United States, Austria and Czechoslovakia – in that self-some order.

The only absentee from the 1934 sequence is a meeting with Spain. But since it took Italy a replay to win through in 1934 they may not be too upset about that.

The truth is that the longer such competitions exist with such a healthy mass entry then repeats – like any financially-strapped television channel – are more and more likely.

The World Cup draw was, itself, a television event. That was the excuse for the dancers, the teenage extras in the national red, white and green, the pop and opera and cinema stars.

From what I could see, glancing down at TV commentators' monitors, the TV show was not all that slick, the direction and the staging ponderous in the extreme.

But this is not a television critique. As a live production some hitches were inevitable. Fortunately they were restricted to minor distractions such as Sophia Loren losing a shoe, Luciano Pavarotti appearing in what looked like a boiler suit and Daniel Passarella standing initially behind the wrong pot. All that was far more preferable than the famous 1982 fiasco when the complexities of he draw overwhelmed everybody and they had to start all over again.

This time, the high-level drama and confusions had been played out two days earlier, behind closed doors.

All along it had been certain that Italy would play the first round in Rome and Argentina – a decision somewhat undermined by the idiosyncracies of Diego Maradona – in Naples (with the exception of the Opening Match in Milan).

Unofficially it had been expected that Brazil would go to Bologna, that West Germany would go to Verona – a popular holiday region for West Germans – and England would go to Sardinia, for reasons of security.

One of the consequences of this was that German manager Franz Beckenbauer had spent some time appraising the various training and accommodation facilities around Verona.

He had been tipped the nod by his federation president, Hermann Neuberger. And if "Hermann the German" – as he is slightingly referred to behind his back – did not know what's what, then who did?

Neuberger is, after all, president of FIFA's own World Cup organising committee (not to be confused with the local, Italian version).

Apparently, it soon became clear at FIFA's closed doors meeting that all was not well. For the sake of not only stadia appearances and local politics, but also financial commonsense, "big boys" Germany and Brazil had to go, instead, to Milan and Turin.

Unfashionable Belgium were shuffled off to Verona. England were assigned Sardinia and the relevant statistics selected to try to prove their right to seeding instead of Spain.

The Brazilians were not too put out. But Neuberger was close to tears – whether of fury or embarrassment is not clear.

When Beckenbauer was later told of the switch he was almost lost for words. So much for the prelude to the draw.

FIFA's general secretary Sepp Blatter, who plays the Swiss Uncle at these events with such patient good humour, had said that the draw would be seen to be fair, and would be made by "innocent hands."

By these he meant Miss Loren, Pavarotti and the men who raised the real cheers of the evening – Ruben Sosa, Bobby Moore, Passarella, Pele, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and the most popular of all, Bruno Conti (FIFA duly observing their Fair Play strictures in the Italian capital and balancing one Roma hero, Conti, against Lazio's Uruguayan, Sosa).

In fact, all the Famous Six had to do

England and Eire are set for a 'second-leg' in Italy

Bobby Robson meets up with his Dutch counterpart Thijs Libregts.

was select the numbers which sorted out the fixures. It was Blatter himself, by supreme irony, who "picked" out the teams and put them into the relevant groups!

Now I have total confidence in the innocence of Blatter's hands. No question. No doubt.

What happy coincidences then, that:
1) Holland went into England's group to concentrate the main anti-hooligan effort on the Sardinia/Sicily group;
2) The United States landed up in Italy's group, which is sure to send such positive, vivid, spectacular and dramatic images back to the land of the 1994 hosts. Even before the last, academic, plastic ball had been lifted from its goldfish bowl, the Sunday newspaper reporters were off and running for the phones. The event fizzled off quickly into chaotic anti-climax and the media circus took over.

The Irish Republic were one of the only countries whose manager stayed away. Most of the rest had long since been snapped up by television to increase the value of their trip.

Consolation

Initial impressions were that Italy had enjoyed the hosts' traditional good fortune in the draw; so had West Germany, some consolation for Neuberger; that Brazil had a reasonable start; Argentina and England decidedly awkward ones. As for Belgium, odd men out thanks to that semi-final appearance in Mexico, their group is wide open.

If you are starting to look for hints about the eventual winners then you consider teams who can comfortably pace their opening round and are then obliged to race around the country as little as possible.

If Italy win Group A they would stay in Rome for the second round AND for the quarter-final. Their semi-final would require "only" a trip down to Naples before returning, hopefully, for the Final in... Rome.

If Brazil win Group C they would stay in Turin for the second round but then move on via Florence and Naples (against Italy?) to end up in Rome.

And England? They would be the most travel-weary World Cup finalists of the lot. If they win the Cagliari group they would go to Bologna for the second round, Naples for the quarter-final and Turin for the semi-final. If the surviving hooligans are still on their feet by then they won't have the energy left to stir up trouble in Rome.

Pele assists FIFA secretary Joseph Blatter as the draw is unveiled

Winning the Cagliari/Palermo group is by no means beyond England. The Irish they know well (since most of them are English either by birth or dint of football upbringing) and they surely will not forget the lessons of that disastrous start to the 1988 European finals.

England then play host to the Dutch and will finish playing the Egyptians – who, by this time and after probably a lively start against Holland – will be starting to wilt under the general pressure.

England have Holland where they want them. The Dutch will not enjoy the heat of their main base in Palermo; and they will not be at full strength. Even if Ruud Gullit is back on two legs, concern over even his mental fitness will be intense.

The other issue concerning England v Holland is one of security. The Cagliari police have been practising their airport tactics on shocked innocents descending from internal flights to find themselves being herded along by armed guards with unwelcoming dogs.

The tactic has proved highly effective on ordinary Italians. But football hooligans, unfortunately, are made of a more unpleasantly resilient material. The police may have a nasty surprise in store.

Judging by the security at the draw, there could also be a nasty surprise in store elsewhere. I do not wish to appear to point up national stereotypes, but it was a fact that at entrances to the Palazzo dello Sport a pretty smile was, for some, just as effective an entry card as the essential accreditation was for the rest us.

Whatever the innocence Blatter demands, there are those – in all facets around the game – who are not ready to comply.

The 1990 finals promise to be highly dramatic. One hopes that it is just that for all the right reasons.

CHILE KICKED OUT OF 1994 WORLD CUP

Rojas banned for life

Chile's infamous attempt to disrupt their World Cup qualifier against Brazil in Rio has ended in disaster.

The Chileans have been fined £40,000 and banned from the 1994 competition as an "aggression against world football."

Their crime, of course, was to pretend that goalkeeper Roberto Rojas had been badly injured by a flare fired from the crowd.

Rojas has been banned from all football for life, along with the then Chilean federation president Sergio Stoppel and team doctor Daniel Rodriguez. Coach Orlando Aravena was banned from international football for life and from national competition for five years.

Centre-back Fernando Astengo has been banned from all football for five years – effectively ending his playing career, too.

Also suspended for varying times were physio Alejandro Koch and kit manager Norberto Maldonaldo, who got rid of the goalkeeper's gloves and jersey.

● NIGERIA have been dropped by FIFA as hosts to the 1991 World Youth Cup as punishment for fielding over-age players at the 1989 World Under-16 championship in Scotland. Portugal will take over as 1991 World Youth hosts.

No action was taken over allegations against the Saudi winners of the under-16 cup because of a lack of evidence.

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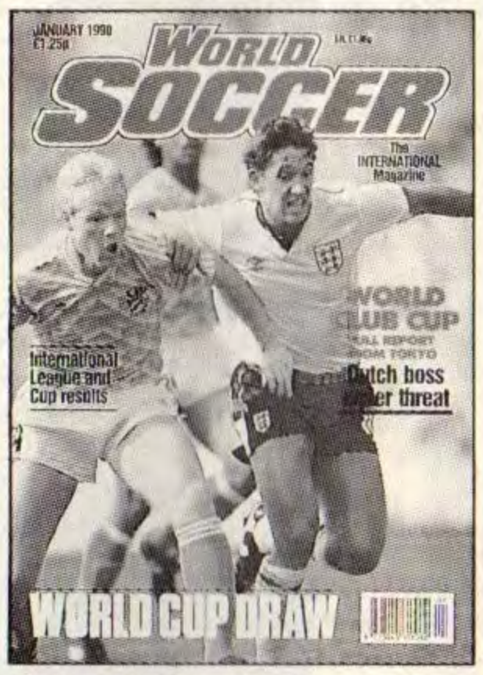

England's Gary Lineker clashes with Dutch star Ronald Koeman.

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ITALIA'90

WORLD CUP DRAW

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A

(Rome and Florence)

ITALY, AUSTRIA, UNITED STATES, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

June 9: Italy v Austria ..... (Rome, 21.00)
June 10: United States v Czechoslovakia ..... (Florence, 17.00)
June 14: Italy v United States ..... (Rome, 21.00)
June 15: Austria v Czechoslovakia ..... (Florence, 17.00)
June 19: Italy v Czechoslovakia ..... (Rome, 21.00)
June 19: Austria v United States ..... (Florence, 21.00)

GROUP B

(Milan, Naples, Bari)

ARGENTINA, CAMEROON, SOVIET UNION, ROMANIA

June 8: Argentina v Cameroon ..... (Milan, 18.00)
June 9: Soviet Union v Romania ..... (Bari, 17.00)
June 13: Argentina v Soviet Union ..... (Naples, 21.00)
June 14: Cameroon v Romania ..... (Bari, 21.00)
June 18: Argentina v Romania ..... (Naples, 21.00)
June 18: Cameroon v Soviet Union ..... (Bari, 21.00)

GROUP C

(Turin, Genoa)

BRAZIL, SWEDEN, COSTA RICA, SCOTLAND

June 10: Brazil v Sweden ..... (Turin, 21.00)
June 11: Costa Rica v Scotland ..... (Genoa, 17.00)
June 16: Brazil v Costa Rica ..... (Turin, 17.00)
June 16: Sweden v Scotland ..... (Genoa, 21.00)
June 20: Brazil v Scotland ..... (Turin, 21.00)
June 20: Sweden v Costa Rica ..... (Genoa, 21.00)

GROUP D

(Milan, Bologna)

WEST GERMANY, YUGOSLAVIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, COLOMBIA

June 9: UAE v Colombia ..... (Bologna, 21.00)
June 10: West Germany v Yugoslavia ..... (Milan, 21.00)
June 14: Yugoslavia v Colombia ..... (Bologna, 17,00)
June 15: West Germany v UAE ..... (Milan, 21.00)
June 19: West Germany v Colombia ..... (Milan, 17.00)
June 19: Yugoslavia v UAE ..... (Bologna, 17.00)

GROUP E

(Verona, Udine)

BELGIUM, SOUTH KOREA, URUGUAY, SPAIN

June 12: Belgium v South Korea ..... (Verona, 17.00)
June 13: Uruguay v Spain ..... (Udine, 17.00)
June 17: Belgium v Uruguay ..... (Verona, 21.00)
June 17: South Korea v Spain ..... (Udine, 21.00)
June 21: Belgium v Spain ..... (Verona, 17.00)
June 21: South Korea v Uruguay ..... (Udine, 17.00)

GROUP F

(Cagliari, Palermo)

ENGLAND, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, NETHERLANDS, EGYPT

June 11: England v Rep of Ireland ..... (Cagliari, 21.00)
June 12: Netherlands v Egypt ..... (Palermo, 21.00)
June 16: England v Netherlands ..... (Cagliari, 21.00)
June 17: Rep of Ireland v Egypt ..... (Palermo, 17.00)
June 21: England v Egypt ..... (Cagliari, 21.00)
June 21: Rep of Ireland v Netherlands (Palermo, 21.00)

SECOND ROUND

The eight knockout matches involve the top two teams from each group plus the four third-placed teams with the best records (chosen first on points gained, then on goal difference, and then by lots). As an example, if England finish first in Group F, they will play the second-placed team in Group E, at Bologna on June 26.

June 23: B1 v A3/C3/D3 ..... (Naples, 17.00)
June 23: A2 v C2 ..... (Bari, 21.00)
June 24: C1 v A3/B3/F3 ..... (Turin, 17.00)
June 24: B1 v B3/E3/F3 ..... (Milan, 21.00)
June 25: A1 v C3/D3/E3 ..... (Rome, 21.00)
June 25: F2 v B2 ..... (Genoa, 17.00)
June 26: F1 v E2 ..... (Bologna, 21.00)
June 26: E1 v D2 ..... (Verona, 17.00)

QUARTER-FINALS

June 30: Winner Genoa v W/Rome ..... (Rome, 21.00)
June 30: W/Turin v W/Verona ..... (Florence, 17.00)
July 1: W/Naples v W/Bologna ..... (Naples, 21.00)
July 1: W/Bari v W/Milan ..... (Milan, 17.00)

SEMI-FINALS

July 3: Winner Florence v W/Rome ..... (Naples, 20.00)
July 4: W/Milan v W/Naples ..... (Turin, 20.00)

THIRD-PLACE MATCH

July 7: ..... v ..... (Bari, 20.00)

FINAL

July 8: ..... v ..... (Rome, 20.00)

● Kick-offs are local time (an hour ahead of BST).

Azeglio Vicini

GROUP A

ITALY manager Azeglio Vicini: It could be a lot worse. Austria are a good solid team but without any real stars. Czechoslovakia are on their way up again. We always find them awkward opponents. The Americans have nothing to lose and that's dangerous. The first game, against Austria, will be our most difficult. Not only because of the opposition but because of all the pressure and tension and expectation. We will try to win the group. It would be good to stay on in Rome for the next round. But that is not the priority or a real problem. Plenty of teams have won the World Cup after finishing second in their first-round group.

AUSTRIA manager Josef Hickersberger: Italy are out on their own because they are a class team and have the advantage of being hosts. What matters, then, is what happens between us and Czechoslovakia.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA manager Josef Vernglos: Italy are the obvious group

THE World Cup is full of organisations with confusing initials and responsibilities. This is what they are supposed to do:

1) FIFA – the world governing body which oversees all aspects of the World Cup finals and is responsible for player discipline and referee appointments during the finals;

Left: Scotland tackle the Brazilians again. Above: Cameroon would have rather faced Italy than their Group B rivals.

WORLDWIDE VERDICT– FOR BETTER OR WORST

favourites. Remembering that three teams may qualify from this group I think we should be among them. Right now I am not thinking that far ahead. We take each game at a time – match by match, step by step. That's how we qualified.
UNITED STATES federation president Werner Fricker: It's a great opportunity for us, Rome and Florence are excellent venues. We have no illusions about our chances. Also, many of our players are hardly 20. But just wait for 1994 ...

GROUP B

ARGENTINA manager Carlos Bilardo: I'm happy with the draw although it's a difficult group. I'm particularly happy with playing Cameroon in the opening match. I was afraid we would have to play one of the European teams – Holland, Spain, Scotland or Austria – who would have had 30 or 40,000 fans cheering them on. I want to win the group. I'm not interested in second place. That's why I want Napoli to win the Italian championship. If the fans there are happy I'm sure they will get behind us.
SOVIET UNION manager Valeri Lobanovsky: We want to show that our football has changed. It is no longer just about athletic ability. Our aim is to qualify for the second round, whether we win the group or not is immaterial. But it is a hard group.

Just what we wanted says Champions' boss BILARDO

Romania could surprise people.
CAMEROON federation president ETOTOKE: We have finished in the hardest group. I would rather have been drawn against Italy.

GROUP C

BRAZIL manager Sebastiao Lazaroni: I don't wish to underestimate anybody but I think we will be in the Final – against Italy. We do have one major disadvantage: the other teams in the group know all about us but we know very little about them.
SWEDEN manager Olle Nordin: I am confident we will qualify. Whether Brazil or Scotland take the other certain place does not matter to me.
SCOTLAND manager Andy Roxburgh: It's glamorous – but difficult.

GROUP D

WEST GERMANY team chief Franz Beckenbauer: I feel confident we will qualify. The real problem is making sure we win the group. Yugoslavia are a team who have impressed me in the two recent games we have played. I don't really know anything about Colombia or the UAE.
COLOMBIA manager Francisco Maturana: We'll make it hard for everyone.
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES manager Mario Zagalo: It was a big surprise for us to qualify for the finals so we are coming mainly for the experience.

GROUP E

BELGIUM manager Walter Meeuws: What do I think of our group? I'd rather talk about something else. Like what an easy group Italy have got ...

GROUP F

HOLLAND manager Thys Libregts: What concerns me the most is the heat in Palermo and the possible absence of Gullit. Thank God we aren't playing West Germany.
ENGLAND manager Bobby Robson: I'm not disappointed but I'm amazed at the coincidence. It's a good opportunity to get something back from the teams we played in West Germany in the European Championship.
IRISH REPUBLIC manager Jack Charlton (from his holiday home): It was the draw I didn't want but only because of the problems it will cause the fans.

PLAYING THE POWER GAME

**2) FIFA's World Cup organising committee, which is responsible for executing FIFA's control over the football aspects of the finals;
3) The FIGC (Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio) is the Italian football federation which applied for the right to host the finals, set up the local organising administration and plays largely a symbolic role during the event;
4) COL 90 is the working, hands-on organisation which is responsible for all the practical details to stage and run the event;
5) ISL is the Luzern-based marketing company, owned part by the Dassler family who also own Adidas and part by the Japanese agency Dentsu, who handle all the mainstream commercial aspects of the World Cup and the sponsorship;
6) The sponsors are the multinational companies (Anheuser-Busch, Canon, Coca-Cola, Fuji Film, Gillette, JVC, Vivi d'Italia, Mars and Alfa Romeo) who pay around $8 million each for rights to pitch advertising and subsidiary promotions;
7) The suppliers are the Italian-based companies who have not only paid around $4 million each to promote their name through the World Cup, but who are also providing equipment and staff to run the show (Olivetti for the computers, the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro for ticket distribution, Alitalia for flights, FIAT for transport, INA-Assitalia, State Railways, RAI and STET). There are also further subsidiary categories for commercial participation (Adidas, Mastercard, etc).**

GREAT PLAYERS AND

FERENC PUSKAS: THE MAGICAL MAGYAR

BY ERIC BATTY

BEFORE the 1954 World Cup the entire world was convinced that Hungary would be the winners, and the man who epitomised the style and quality of the Hungarian play was Ferenc Puskas.

Inside left and captain, midfield general par excellence, and a regular goal scorer on top, Puskas had gone overnight from being totally unknown, to become the world's favourite player.

The game that made Puskas a household name was the 6-3 whipping of England at Wembley, in December, 1953. Puskas had scored two goals, one of them with a flourish of magical skill never seen before in Britain.

Until that visit of the unknown Hungarians, England had been unbeaten at home against any team from outside the British Isles. The English had received many warnings, when they scraped home draws against exceptionally gifted foreign teams, but somehow muddled through.

Olympic champs

The Magical Magyars, as they were christened by Fleet Street after their Wembley victory, had won the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki. But the English had seen or heard nothing of that, or the style and quality with which their forwards played.

Walter Winterbottom, the English manager of the time, had seen the Hungarians draw 2-2 at home to Sweden, in their last warm-up match before the Wembley trip. He had warned that the Hungarians were a really good side.

In the minutes before the Wembley match it was awesome to see the Hungarians whacking in shots from outside the penalty area, shooting with the power and accuracy of mini-bombs. Seeing this, I realised that if the Hungarians were as good as I had heard, then England would be in serious trouble, and so it turned out.

The Hungarians scored an early goal, and England were always struggling. Puskas scored twice, but the goal that made him recognised as an individual star was the one seen on BBC TV recently, that involved his fabulous 'drag-back'. Puskas sprinted towards the English goal, heading for the near post area, looking for a pass from right winger Budai.

When the pass came, straight along the carpet, Puskas was challenged by Harry Johnston, a quality player himself. But as Johnston tackled, Puskas pulled the ball back with the sole of his left foot; pushed the ball forward at a wide angle, then took one step forward and smashed the ball, hard and high past goalkeeper Gil Merrick.

The goal scoring record of Ferenc Puskas was fabulous, although there were many clubs inferior to Honved, in Hungary. Puskas played in a total of 84 international matches for Hungary, and scored an unbelievable 83 international goals.

In Switzerland for the World Cup, Hungary hammered a poor South Korean side by 9-0 in Zurich; then beat West Germany 8-3 in Basle. Puskas was badly injured in the game against the Germans; an accidental knock in a challenge with Werner Liebrich.

He missed the 4-2 victories over Brazil in Berne, and the finest football match I ever saw in my life, the 4-2 win over Uruguay in Lausanne. This match included extra-time, and the two hours flashed past. What made it such a special match was the fact that BOTH teams played football of the highest calibre. In addition, it was a game played in a fine sporting spirit, with hardly a foul to be seen. The Uruguayans have five world class players, and were the last good team to play with an attacking centre half, in the World Cup, and make this system pay.

For the final at the Wankdorf stadium in Berne, Puskas was declared fit, and after nine minutes the Hungarians led 2-0 with goals from Zoltan Czibor and Puskas, who scored with a low shot from around eight yards from a pass by Czibor.

Dropped

But the Hungarians were not as effective as they usually were in attack, for manager Gustav Szebes had dropped right winger Budai; switching Czibor from the left wing to the right flank, and bringing in Mihaly Toth on the left flank, for his first game in the competition.

The stadium seemed to be at least half full of Germans, most of whom stood in the rain that fell consistently throughout the match. Fritz Walter, the German captain, was an outstanding star of superior quality, and Werner Liebrich at centre back was brilliant. His sense of anticipation allowed him to cut out many penetrating passes that had split other defences wide open. They played a vital part in dragging the Germans back into the game, though an error in the usually sound Hungarian defence gifted the Germans their first goal, scored by Max Morlock, to make it 2-1.

Two goals by Helmut Rahn on the German right wing; a strong, bustling player, gave the Germans a 3-2 lead early in the second half. The Hungarians had perhaps been over-confident when leading 2-0; still producing their polished football, but coasting. Then in the second half, when 2-3 down, they assaulted the German goal on all cylinders.

The Germans packed their own half with bodies, and Liebrich seemed to be everywhere in defence, and the Hungarians did everything but score. Then, with only a minute left, Kocsis slipped a through pass diagonally through the middle for Puskas to run on to, and the Hungarians celebrated, thinking they were level at 3-3. It was disallowed for off-side, though Puskas was clearly on-side when the pass was made.

I realised then that having referees on the line was a terrible error at World Cups, but the unbeatable Hungarians had lost.

Two years later came the uprising in Budapest, and while I had travelled to see the Hungarians play often, the team broke up in 1956. With SC Kispest and Honved, Puskas had been the top league scorer three times, with a fabulous 50 goals in 1947-48, and won five championship medals. He made his debut in the league at 16, and first played for Hungary when 18.

General

Puskas was a great, truly great, midfield general who also scored goals, but after he defected in 1956, Emil Oestreicher, the Real Madrid business manager who had been with Honved, persuaded Madrid to invest £8,000 signing on fee, and take a chance on Puskas. Though only around five foot four, Puskas became the centre forward for Madrid; wearing 10, but with Alfredo Di Stefano dropping back.

Puskas scored 35 goals for Madrid in 37 European Cup matches, including four in the celebrated drubbing of Eintracht Frankfurt, 7-3 in the 1960 final. He was five times champion of Spain, and four times the top league scorer.

In the 1962 final Puskas scored three first half goals, when Madrid lost 3-5 to Benfica, and played four times for Spain.

But what made Puskas unique was that he was able to play at centre forward and be great while scoring goals as the spearhead, a world class midfield general, and then in his 30s a world class centre forward, and I never saw another player who could be so outstanding in both roles.

Puskas inspired Hungary to a history making 6-3 win over England at Wembley.

Pele strikes against Italy as Brazil take the world crown in 1970.

1970 World Cup Final

BRAZIL 4 ITALY 1

THIS was the supreme advertisement for entertaining football, with the skills of Pele, Garson and Co., overcoming the defensive approach which always seems to be the backbone of Italian thinking.

In this game however, the Italians put together good attacking moves, albeit, mostly counter-attacks. But Luigi Riva and Sandro Mazzola, their best players in this match, showed that the Italians always could play, if they wanted to.

In the opening minutes Mazzola created a shooting position for Riva, whose fierce left foot drive, was turned over the Brazilian bar by goalkeeper Felix. Then Pele was fouled twice from behind, just outside the Brazilian penalty area. After 11 minutes Riva got a second shot on the target, but this went straight to Felix. Then Pele, back in defence, was penalised for dangerous play – his foot too high as he went for the ball – and Mazzola chipped up the free kick for Riva to head, hard, just over the bar.

Brazil meanwhile had displayed their variety of skills, and smooth passing movements, without being able to threaten the Italian goalkeeper Enrico Albertosi.

Then suddenly, the first time Albertosi was seriously threatened, Brazil scored. Tostao took a throw in out on the left flank, throwing the ball towards Rivelino. Under pressure, Rivelino hooked the ball across goal first time, and there was Pele at the far post, jumping to head the ball into the net, and open the scoring.

Brazil produced a silky smooth 6 man passing movement, looking for a second goal, and suddenly they were in trouble. Brito made a mistake and Riva was away on his own, but keeper Felix sprinted from his penalty area to do well, and kick the ball away. Riva then gave a good chance to Roberto Boninsegna, his striking partner, but Boninsegna pulled his shot wide of the target.

Felix showed his lack of confidence by punching away at a corner, when he could have caught the ball. Then suddenly, after 37 minutes, Italy were level. Boninsegna intercepted a Brazilian pass, then beat a defender and pushed the ball past Felix, as the keeper came out of the penalty area.

Either Riva or Boninsegna might have scored, but it was Boninsegna, who had created the chance, who calmly slotted the ball into the empty goal from outside the penalty area.

Gerson shot wide with a first time shot for Brazil before Giancarlo De Sisti gave Angelo Domenghini the chance to shoot. Felix fumbled the ball, but recovered by diving on the ball. Then on the stroke of half time, Pele had the ball in the net from a Gerson free kick, but that was disallowed.

Both teams came out after the break having obviously been ordered to look for a quick goal. Italy put together a flurry of passes to find Boninsegna, but Brito just managed to get a foot in and steer the ball back to Felix.

After a foul on Pele inside the penalty area, Brazil were awarded an indirect free kick. A shot by Gerson was blocked by the Italian wall, and Giacinto Facchetti broke upfield from left back, with the ball at his feet. The ball was squared to Boninsegna, and he found Domenghini on the right, who shot. Felix moved to his right, and dived, but the ball took a wicked deflection off Everaldo, who attempted to block the shot. Luckily for Brazil the ball flashed only just wide of the unguarded post, for a corner.

Involved

Domenghini and Mazzola worked a neat move, for Mazzola to break, but his shot flew high over the bar.

The ball tended to soar high in the Mexican atmosphere, but Rivelino produced the best free kick of the match to hit the Italian crossbar, from outside the penalty area. Another Brazilian free kick was taken twice because Riva encroached within 10 yards, but each time Rivelino blazed the ball too high.

Italy went close on the hour. Domenghini took a corner on the Italian left and Mazzola headed towards goal. Felix managed to get to the ball, but only just, and weakly pushed the ball away.

After 66 minutes came the moment when Brazil took over the match, with the killer goal that appeared to break the hearts of the Italians. Carlos Alberto, Gerson, Everaldo, and Jairzinho were all involved in the build up. An Italian foot got in to tip the ball away, but only to Gerson, who pushed the ball forward, had a look, then thumped the ball waist high towards goal.

Albertosi was well beaten by a cross shot from around 20 yards that flew past his despairing left hand.

Pele was now fouled twice in quick succession by Domenghini and Mario Bertini, and each was fortunate not to be disciplined, and then after 71 minutes the Brazilians increased their lead to 3-1. Gerson chipped up a free kick towards the far post, and there was Pele, jumping high, and nodding the ball down into the path of the powerful right winger Jairzinho. He controlled the ball with his stomach, then as Albertosi came out to challenge, Jairzinho shot, and though the Brazilian sliced his effort, the ball went into the empty net.

Pele then tried his hand at keeping a free kick low, but was no more successful than Rivelino and Gerson.

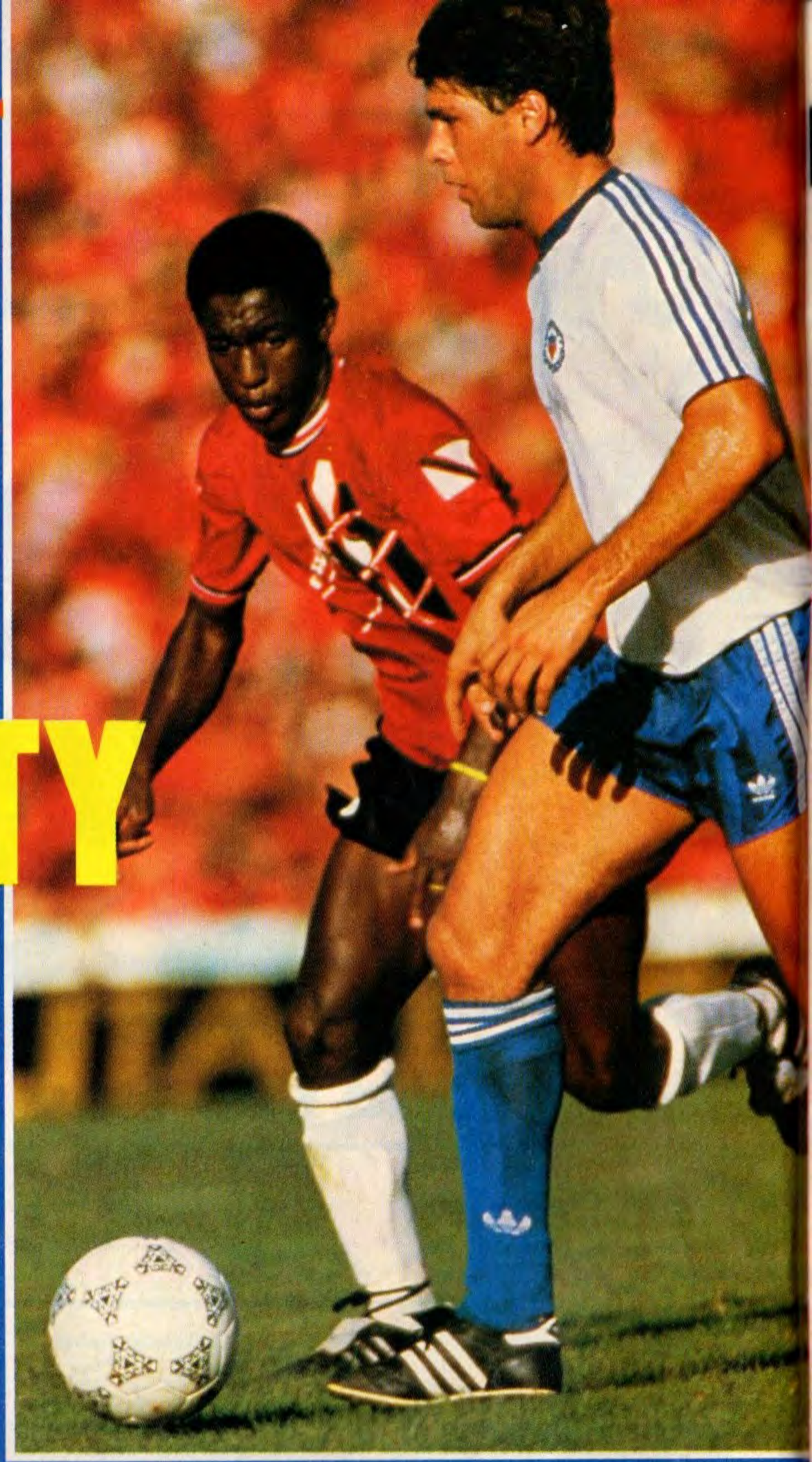
Mazzola had not given up, and he inspired Italy to one last fling. Mazzola beat two men inside the penalty area before crossing, to create a real scramble, which ended with Riva putting the ball over the bar.

Then after 86 minutes Brazil crowned a masterly performance with another goal to make it 4-1. All readers must have seen it on TV. Rivelino played the ball up the left to find a wandering Jairzinho, who cut inside and pushed the ball to Pele. With what appeared to be all the time in the world, Pele controlled the ball, then showing acute perception, he rolled the ball into space on the Brazilian right, for Carlos Alberto, sprinting up from right back, to thunder in a right foot cross shot, hit first time.

Brazil were well worth their 4-1 win, and their success made the old World Cup trophy their property outright.

THE FINAL (Mexico City) : Brazil 4, Italy 1
Brazil: Felix; Carlos Alberto, Brito, Piazza, Everaldo; Clodoaldo, Gerson; Jairzinho, Tostão, Pelé, Rivelino.
Italy: Albertosi; Cera; Burgnich, Bertini, (Juliano), Rosato, Facchetti; Domenghini, Mazzola, De Sisti; Boninsegna (Rivera), Riva.
Scorers: Pelé, Gerson, Jairzinho, Carlos Alberto for Brazil; Boninsegna for Italy.

CALIGIURI SHOOTS FOR THAT CREDIBILITY GAP



BY PAUL GARDNER

For the first time since 1950, the United States have reached the World Cup finals. The achievement marks a crucial stage in the build-up for the 1994 finals (to be staged in the US), and will bring much-needed credibility to the sport in America.

At least, that is what the United States Soccer Federation is hoping. There is no doubt that media interest will increase with the US presence in Italy. What has yet to be established is whether that will, automatically, create more soccer fans.

One of the planks upon which the organisers of World Cup-94 are building their plans is that success depends, to a large extent, on a successful US team. In other words, a US team that fans want to watch – either because it is a winning team, or because it is an exciting team.

Nobody is soft-headed enough to imagine that the US are likely to win the 1994 World Cup, so that the realistic option is to create a team that is attractive and exciting to watch. And – most important this – can score some goals in a sport that is always heavily criticised in the US as being 'too low scoring.'

Which is where the problem starts. In its eight qualifying games, the US scored just six goals, managing more than one in a game only once. The team gave up only three goals in those eight games. This is, without any room for doubt, a very defensively orientated side, with little in the way of flair to excite the fans.

Inevitably, the manner of qualification was something less than spectacular. With four games left, things looked reasonably under control – especially as three of those games were against El Salvador and Guatemala, teams already eliminated.

There was the further advantage that the US did not have to play in El Salvador – the game was played at a neutral site, Honduras. Things did not go well for the US. Against an El Salvador team that showed little inclination to exert themselves, the US scraped a 1-0 win.

Next, in Guatemala, the USA managed only a 0-0 tie in a game that clearly meant very little to the Guatemalans – the stadium was only one quarter full.

Rock bottom came in the home game against El Salvador in St Louis. The El Salvadorans very nearly didn't make it – their air fares had to be paid by a St Louis business company – and once again they played with little commitment. Yet the USA could still not put the ball in the net. The resulting 0-0 tie meant that it all came down to the final game. The US would have to win in Trinidad.

A do-or-die game for both teams. With Costa Rica having already wrapped up one of the CONCACAF qualifying slots, the US and Trinidad – both with nine points – would fight it out for the other place. But Trinidad, in addition to the home advantage, possessed the superior goal-difference and needed only a tie to book its passage to Italy.

For Trinidad, it was an event almost without precedent. Harold Taylor, first vice-president of the Trinidad Football Association, said: "It's unbelievable. Every person in this country, every person, is interested in what's going to happen. It's mind boggling. It's the biggest thing that's ever happened here, bigger than any political event. We've never had the people mobilised like this."

On television, on the radio, the game was unavoidable, as the interviews and the special football calypsos poured out unceasingly. On the streets, flags and banners were everywhere. The Friday before the game was declared Red Day – everyone was asked to wear something red. And they did – turning down-town Port of Spain into a crowded, smiling, crimson party.

When the US team arrived at 23.30 that night, some 3000 people were at the airport to greet them – not with jeers and boos, but with applause and smiles. The atmosphere was one of festivity and friendliness. It was beautiful, but it was not what was needed to win a vital football match. Everything was, well, too nice. The Americans were whisked through customs, and then rushed off to their hotel – no unexplained delays, no long periods of waiting about, just perfect hospitality.

One had to remind oneself that FIFA had designated this a 'high risk' game. The only risk seemed to be that of being suffocated by niceness.

By 10.30 on the morning of game day, the stadium was already packed with around 30,000 spectators. Every single one of them, it seemed, wearing a bright red shirt. The celebration had already started, a calypso band, its music amplified to deafening volume, was at work and the whole stadium was joining in.

When, two hours before the kick off, the Trinidad team strolled out on to the field, the crowd rose to cheer them as conquering heroes.

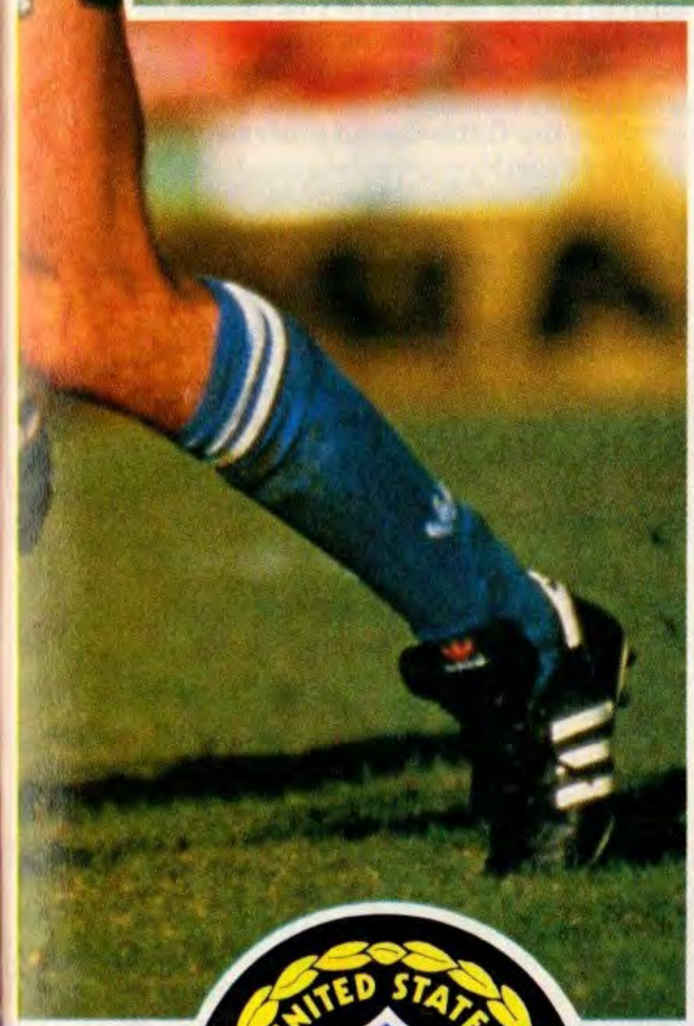
The thought occurred: this was Maracana 1950, when the citizens of Rio jammed the stadium to chant and cheer Brazil to victory in the sunshine ... all they needed was a tie against Uruguay. And all Trinidad needed was a tie against the US to get to Italy. But back in 1950 the Brazilian fans had departed stunned and in tears as Uruguay took the game 2-1.

History was about to repeat itself. The sad truth was that Trinidad never really came to grips with this game. Even more surprising, the crowd – so joyous, so enthusiastic, so noisy before the game – never got behind its team. US coach Bob Gansler got that right when he told his players before the game: "You like to play in arenas where what you do is appreciated. I told the players, this is not a threatening crowd, it's festive."

Indeed, it's doubtful if such a vital football game has ever been played in such an amiable atmosphere. No crunching tackles, no flare-ups, no arguments with the referee – not even a solitary yellow card!

Trinidad's resolve seemed to be undermined by the knowledge that they needed only a tie. Right from the start the team was tentative, totally prepared to let the US make the running. Which is precisely what the US did – for once abandoning the

The USA victory over Trinidad gave them a World Cup finals place for the first time in 40 years.



Americans aim for a future perfect

laboured defensiveness that had so far been their trademark.

But Gansler continued to put on the field a team without a specialist goal-scorer, relying on Bruce Murray and Peter Vermes (one goal between them in seven games) up front. The only concession to those who looked for a more adventurous style came in midfield, where the ponderous John Stollmeyer was dropped in favour of the more mobile Paul Caligiuri.

And Caligiuri it was who decided the game with a moment of individual skill, a moment that was not supposed to be in the game plan. Receiving the ball some 40 yards out from the Trinidad goal, Caligiuri did not play it wide, as the US had so frequently and so predictably done. He pushed it forward, looked up, hooked it around a defender and then volleyed the bouncing ball with his left foot from 25 yards.

The shot was not exactly unstoppable – but it was unexpected, it was dipping, and it went in. After the game, Caligiuri admitted, without any noticeable remorse: "I went against the game plan."

The goal, which should surely have galvanised Trinidad and the crowd to fury, did nothing of the sort. Trinidad continued to play its neither-attacking-fish-nor-defensive-fowl game, while the crowd went on being strangely uninvolved.

Perhaps the unreal atmosphere is best conveyed by an incident that occurred a minute before the US goal. Trinidad's centre-forward Philbert Jones broke free into the US penalty area. As he approached the goal he was flattened by a late, clumsy tackle from defender John Doyle.

Another defender, Brian Bliss, admitted later: "That was a scary moment – I looked straight at the referee, but he was waving play on." The decision, by referee Juan Carlos Loustau of Argentina, was highly questionable yet it produced virtually no reaction from the Trinidad players or from the crowd.

Reminder

In the second half, Trinidad opened up with a more aggressive approach, but by now the US were in defensive mode. Only the raids down the left wing – where Leonson Lewis gave Steve Trittschuh an uncomfortable afternoon – caused any problems. With 20 minutes left, Lewis sped away from Stollmeyer and Trittschuh and pulled an inviting cross back along the ground – only to see goalkeeper Tony Meola stretch at full length to gather the ball. A reminder that the 20-year-old Meola is a good keeper and one US player who will surely arouse interest from foreign clubs during the finals in Italy.

And that was it. At the final whistle, sheer joy for the Americans, despair for the Trinidadians, many of whom simply fell to the grass, sad lifeless figures scattered across the field, as the US players ran over to applaud the little group of American fans who had been cheering them on.

Incredibly, the Trinidad fans were still singing, still smiling. They applauded the American team, they did not invade the field. FIFA, much given to Fair Play Awards these days, might consider a Fair Play Trophy for the entire population of Trinidad and Tobago. But once again, the scurrilous, unwelcome thought intrudes: you don't win games with fair play. The Trinidadians had simply been too nice for their own good.

In the US locker room, beer and champagne squirted in all directions and raucous chants of 'Italia! Italia!' bounced off the walls. Paul Caligiuri repeated, over and over, just how he had scored what is surely the most important goal in the history of US soccer.

Coach Gansler, never too comfortable with the press, actually joked about his selection of Caligiuri, claiming it was time for Caligiuri to score a left-foot goal: "Now we'll take six weeks off, then it's back to work. The dream is to do well in Italy – you can't be satisfied with just showing up."

Gansler would not discuss his future, but was clearly working on the assumption that he will be the coach in Italy. In the immediate post-game euphoria, that seemed a reasonable position. Add the fact that the US Federation president Werner Fricker had personally chosen Gansler as coach, and it looked like an impregnable position.

Whether it is a sensible position is another matter. Between now and the beginning of the World Cup next June, the idea is to get as much publicity – including TV games – for the national team as possible. In addition, the national team will be the centre-piece of the marketing and sponsorship deals that the sport must have.

It is asking a lot to imagine that the unconvincing, cautious, colourless performances of this team in the eight games of the qualifying tournament could bring the American public flocking to soccer. Need it be that way, can this team not do better?

It did do better. Under previous coach Lothar Osiander, virtually the same players beat El Salvador twice in Olympic qualifying games, and scored eight goals against them. Under Gansler, the scores against El Salvador were 0-0 and 1-0. The mentality of the team has been changed from one that could attack with conviction, to one frightened of making mistakes.

When Franz Beckenbauer took over the West German national team in 1984, he stated: "We must have the courage to take risks. This is what we have lost.' 'That does not sound like a philosophy that Bob Gansler would preach to his teams. Yet it is what is needed.

ALL THE UNITED STATES' MATCHES . . .

World Cup 1930			
13.07.30	BELGIUM	Montevideo	Won 3-0
17.07.30	PARAGUAY	Montevideo	Won 3-0
26.07.30	ARGENTINA	Montevideo	Lost 1-6
World Cup 1934			
24.05.34	Mexico	Rome	Won 4-2
27.05.34	ITALY	Rome	Lost 1-7
World Cup 1950			
1.09.49	Mexico	Mexico City	Lost 0-6
14.09.49	Cuba	Mexico City	Tied 1-1
18.09.49	Mexico	Mexico City	Lost 2-6
21.09.49	Cuba	Mexico City	Won 5-2
15.06.50	SPAIN	Curitiba	Lost 1-3
29.06.50	ENGLAND	Belo Horizonte	Won 1-0
2.07.50	CHILE	Recife	Lost 2-5
World Cup 1954			
10.01.54	Mexico	Mexico City	Lost 0-4
14.01.54	Mexico	Mexico City	Lost 1-3
3.04.54	Haiti	Port-au-Prince	Won 3-2
4.04.54	Haiti	Port-au-Prince	Won 3-0
World Cup 1958			
7.04.57	Mexico	Mexico City	Lost 0-6
28.04.57	Mexico	Long Beach	Lost 2-7
22.06.57	Canada	Toronto	Lost 1-5
6.07.57	Canada	St. Louis	Lost 2-3
World Cup 1962			
6.11.60	Mexico	Los Angeles	Tied 3-3
13.11.60	Mexico	Mexico City	Lost 0-3
World Cup 1966			
7.03.65	Mexico	Los Angeles	Tied 2-2
12.03.65	Mexico	Mexico City	Lost 0-2
17.03.65	Honduras	San Pedro Sula	Won 1-0
21.03.65	Honduras	Tegucigalpa	Tied 1-1
World Cup 1970			
17.10.68	Canada	Toronto	Lost 2-4
27.10.68	Canada	Atlanta	Won 1-0
2.11.68	Bermuda	Kansas City	Won 6-2
10.11.68	Bermuda	Hamilton	Won 2-0
20.04.69	Haiti	Port-au-Prince	Lost 0-2
11.05.69	Haiti	San Diego	Lost 0-1
World Cup 1974			
20.08.72	Canada	St. John's	Lost 2-3
29.08.72	Canada	Baltimore	Tied 2-2
3.09.72	Mexico	Mexico City	Lost 1-3
10.09.72	Mexico	Los Angeles	Lost 1-2
World Cup 1978			
24.09.76	Canada	Vancouver	Tied 1-1
3.10.76	Mexico	Los Angeles	Tied 0-0
18.10.76	Mexico	Puebla	Lost 0-3
20.10.76	Canada	Seattle	Won 2-0
22.12.76	Canada	Port-au-Prince	Lost 0-3
World Cup 1982			
25.10.80	Canada	Fort Lauderdale	Tied 0-0
1.11.80	Canada	Vancouver	Lost 1-2
9.11.80	Mexico	Mexico City	Lost 1-5
23.11.80	Mexico	Fort Lauderdale	Won 2-1
World Cup 1986			
15.05.85	Trinidad	St. Louis	Won 2-1
19.05.85	Trinidad	Los Angeles	Won 1-0
26.05.85	Costa Rica	Alajuela	Tied 1-1
31.05.85	Costa Rica	Torrance	Lost 0-1
World Cup 1990			
24.07.88	Jamaica	Kingston	Tied 0-0
13.08.88	Jamaica	St. Louis	Won 5-1
16.04.89	Costa Rica	San Jose	Lost 0-1
30.04.89	Costa Rica	St. Louis	Won 1-0
13.05.89	Trinidad	Torrance	Tied 1-1
17.06.89	Guatemala	New Britain	Won 2-1
17.09.89	El Salvador	Tegucigalpa	Won 1-0
8.10.89	Guatemala	Guatemala City	Tied 0-0
5.11.89	El Salvador	St. Louis	Tied 0-0
18.11.89	Trinidad	Port of Spain	Won 1-0

AFRICAN NOTEBOOK

BY MARK GLEESON

CAMEROON AND EGYPT LOOK THE BEST YET

THE PRESENCE of Cameroon and Egypt at the World Cup finals provides the likelihood of the continent again providing upsets at world soccer's show piece in June.

Both nations go to Italy as possibly the best two sides to come out of Africa yet and they should not be underestimated.

Not that the more fancied nations are likely to anyway, given Algeria's upset win over West Germany in 1982 and Morocco's exploits in Mexico.

Egypt return to the World Cup finals for the first time since 1934, while Cameroon are back after being eliminated without defeat in Spain.

Reigning African champions Cameroon put an early qualifying scare behind them to qualify for the finals, trouncing Tunisia 3-0 on aggregate over the two legs of their third round play-off.

The indomitable Lions, strengthened by their French-based professionals, won 2-0 at home in Yaounde in the first leg before 80,000 delirious fans, before clinching their berth with a 1-0 win away in Tunis.

Egypt's path was a lot more torrid and victory over Algeria was clouded with political controversy that spread as far afield as the Gulf state of Iraq.

A 0-0 away draw in Constantine in the first leg of their third round play-off laid the foundation for Egyptian victory, secured with a 1-0 win in Cairo in the return.

But Egyptian celebrations were marred by tragic death, especially in Baghdad, capital of Iraq, where migrant workers clashed with Iraqis after impromptu street celebrations.

The fighting, which left more than a hundred Egyptians injured, sparked a major diplomatic incident, resolved only after talks involving Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak.

Algerian midfielder Lakhdar Belloumi was arrested after a fight with the Egyptians at their hotel at the end of the second leg, but was later allowed to go home.

Belloumi, a former African Footballer of the Year, was accused of partially blinding an Egyptian doctor after breaking a glass in the fracas. But Belloumi, on his return home, denied the incident and said it was "an affair completely mounted by the Egyptian media to prepare for the African Nations cup in Algeria".

Egypt's win was secured by a goal after just four minutes of the second leg by the Al Ahly striker Hossam Hassan, who outjumped Algerian goalkeeper Hadi Larbi to head home a cross by the Qatar-based professional Rabih Yassin.

Yassin had a chance to score himself 10 minutes after the interval, but squandered his effort straight into the grateful arms of substitute goalkeeper Othmani, who had come on after the interval for Larbi.

Algeria's frantic attempts at an equaliser, which would have seen them through on the away goals rule, were thwarted by the Egyptian defence and, probably more importantly, the noise from the fanatical 120,000 that packed the Cairo stadium.

Egypt, who were African champions in 1986, will prove a professional, if somewhat cynical, outfit in Italy with the Portuguese-based midfielder Magdi Abdelghani and injury-plagued striker Taher Abou Zeid among the names to watch for.

Cameroon will certainly provide the colour, as they did back in 1982. Charismatic Joseph-Antoine Bell is back between the sticks, while another six players are regulars in the professional ranks in France.

Against Tunisia they were a far cry from the team that had been held at home by Angola in the opening match of their qualifiers.

Cameroon's Mbouh moves past Tunisia's Dhiab in their World Cup decider. Below: Skipper Stephen Tataw leads the Cameroon celebrations.

In Yaounde, Louis-Paul M'fede opened the scoring after a tentative opening 54 minutes with Emmanuel Kunde adding a vital second in injury time.

Tunisia's preparations for the second leg included a 4-0 defeat by the Egyptians in a friendly and injury to first choice goalkeeper Ahmed Bourchada, and the return in Tunis saw Francois Omam Biyick, top goalscorer in the French Second Division with Laval, score on the breakaway after 13 minutes.

Bell and Kunde kept the Cameroonian defence ably manned as Tunisia attempted an impossible four-goal comeback and, as the end of the match approached, there was an eery silence from the 45,000 crowd in the El-Menzah stadium as the home fans realised their team would not make it.

Algeria's disappointment at losing out in the race for the World Cup could be tempered by club side Mouloudia Oran, who have qualified for the final of the African Champions' Cup.

The Algerians, aiming to become the fourth Algerian club to win the cup, will face neighbours Raja Casablanca of Morocco in the two-legged final.

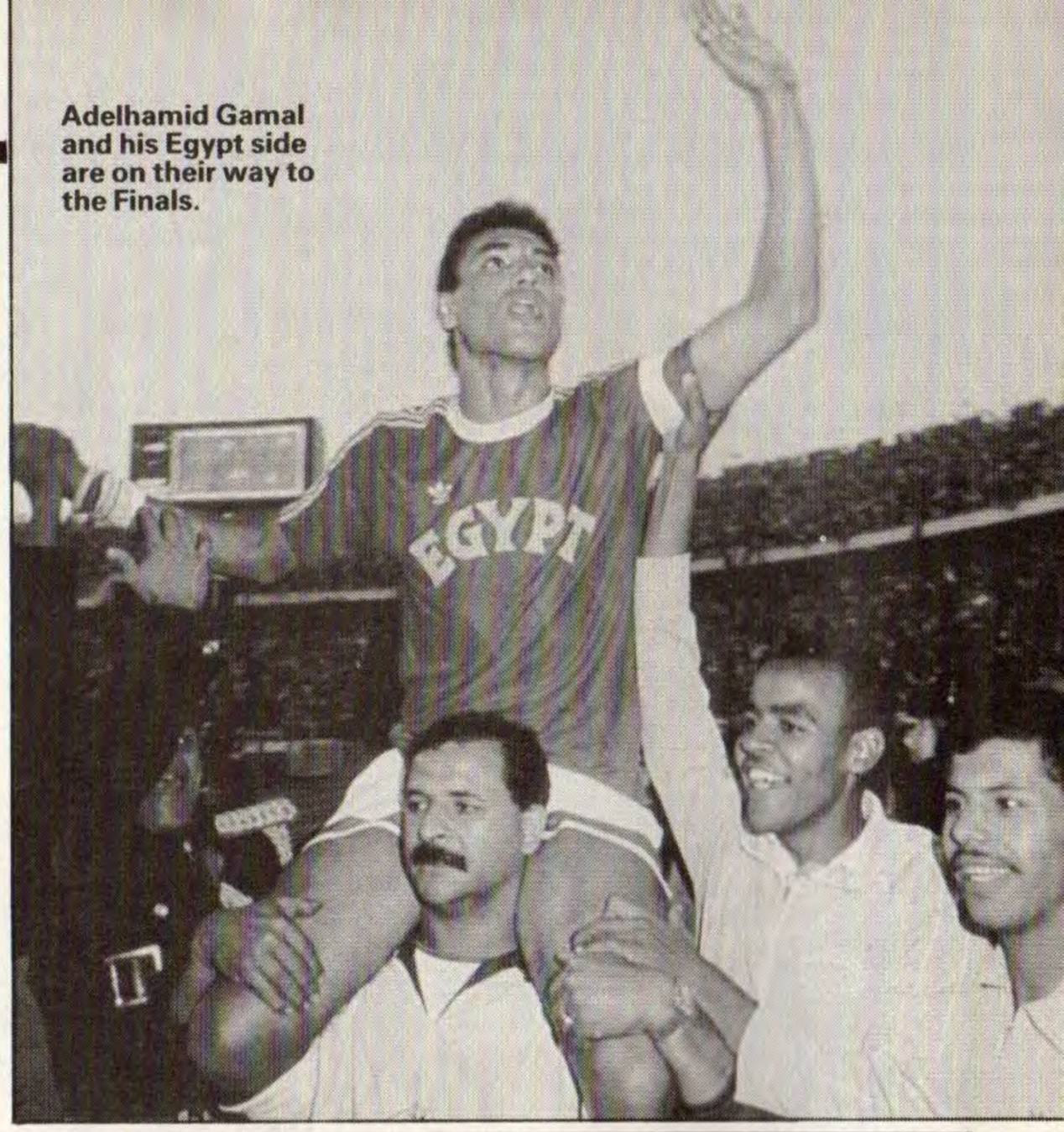
Mouloudia qualified in style for the final, beating Zambian champions Nkana Red Devils 5-2 in the second leg for a 5-3 aggregate win.

But there was a cloud of controversy over the tie as Devils limped to a 1-0 win in an ill-tempered first leg match that saw four Algerians booked. Zambian international Beston Chambeshi put them further ahead at the start of the second leg, but Mouloudia came storming back to score five goals, including a hat trick from striker Abdelkader Meziane.

Raja Casablanca also showed character in their tie against the highly fancied Cameroonians Tonnerre Yaounde, coming back to win 4-2 on aggregate. Raja won the first leg 2-0, but conceded two quick goals in the return in Yaounde as Tonnerre levelled on aggregate. But Raja fought back to draw the game and win the tie.

In the Cup-winners' Cup, the fairytale run of Madagascan club Banky Fampandrosoana ny Varotra came to an end at the semi-final stage as they fell to Nigeria's Bendel United in the semi-finals, 4-1 on aggregate.

Bendel United will be hoping to go one better than compatriots Ranchers Bees, beaten in the final of the Cup-winners' Cup last year. Bendel United face Sudan's Al Merrikh, who beat 1987 winners Gor Mahia 2-1 on aggregate in their semi final.



Adelhamid Gamal and his Egypt side are on their way to the Finals.

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Mbabane Highlanders (Swaziland) 2 Africa Sports (Tanzania) 0, Africa Sports withdrew from second leg.

Matlama (Lesotho) 0 Botswana Defence Force XI (Botswana) 1; Botswana Defence Force XI 4 Matlama 1. **BDF XI won 5-1 on aggregate.**

St Louis (Seychelles) 0 COSFAP (Madagascar) 0. COSFAP 0 St Louis 1. **St Louis won 1-0 on agg.**

Zumunta (Niger) 0 Etoile Filante (Burkins Faso) 2; Etoile Filante 1 Zumunta 1. **Etoile Filante won 3-1 on agg.**

Mighty Blackpool (Sierra Leone) walkover v Benfica (Guinea Bissau) disqualified.

El Nguema (Equatorial Guinea) 1 Fatima Diables Rogue (Central African Republic) 0; Fatima Diables Rogue 4 El Nguema 0. **Fatima Diables Rogue won 4-1 on agg.**

FIRST ROUND

Fire Brigade (Mauritius) 1 St Louis 0; St Louis 0 Fire Brigade 1. **Fire Brigade won 2-0 on agg.**

Nkana Red Devils (Zambia) 4 Botswana Defence Force XI 1; Botswana Dfence Force 1 Nkana Red Devils 1. **Nkana Red Devils won 5-2 on agg.**

Mouloudia d'Oran (Algeria) walkover v Al-Ittihad(Libya) **withdrew.**

Esperance (Tunisia) 2 Etoile Filante 1; Etoile Filante 0 Esperance 0. **Esperance won 2-1 on agg.**

Djoliba (Mali) 1 Horoya (Guinea) 0; Horoya 0 Djoliba 0. **Djoliba won 1-0 on agg.**

Entente Setif (Algeria, holders) 1 Mighty Blackpool (Sierra Leone) 0; Mighty Blackpool 1 Entente Setif 0. 1-1 on agg. **Blackpool won 5-3 on pens.**

Tonnerre Yaounde (Cameroon) 2 Fatima Diables Rogue 0; Fatima Diables Rogue 0 Tonnerre Yaounde 3. **Tonnerre Yaounde won 5-0 on agg.**

Vita Club (Zaire) 4 Mukungwa (Rwanda) 0; Mukungwa 1 Vita Club 2. **Vita Club won 6-1 on agg.**

Express FC (Uganda) 4 Mbabane Highlanders 0; Mbabane Highlanders 2 Express FC 1. **Express FC won 5-2 on agg.**

Grupo Desportivo Maputo (Mozambique) 2 Zimbabwe Saints (Zimbabwe) 2; Zimbabwe Saints 1 Grupo Desportivo Maputo 1. 3-3 on agg. **Zimbabwe Saints won on away goals rule.**

Zamalek (Egypt) 2 Al-Mourada (Sudan) 1; Al Mourada 1 Zamalek 0 (match abandoned). **Al-Mourada walkover.**

AFC Leopards (Kenya) 0 Inter FC (Burundi) 0. Inter FC 1 AFC Leopards 1. 1-1 on agg. **AFC Leopards won on away goals rule.**

Raja Casablanca (Morocco) 2 Jeanne d'Arc (Senegal) 0; Jeanne d'Arc 1 Raja Casablanca 0. **Raja Casablanca won 2-1 on agg.**

JAC Port-Gentil (Gabon) 1 Africa Sports (Cote d'Ivoire) 0; Africa Sports 1 JAC 0. **1-1 on agg. JAC Port-Gentil won 5-3 on penalties.**

Inter Club (Congo) 2 Petro Atletico (Angola) 1; Petro Atletico 2 Inter Club 2. **Inter Club won 4-3 on agg.**

Iwuanyanwu Nationale (Nigeria) 4 Mighty Barrolle (Liberia) 1; Mighty Barolle 0 Iwuanyanwu Nationale 0. **Iwuangyanwu Nationale won 4-1 on agg.**

SECOND ROUND

Nkana Red Devils 5 Fire Brigade 1; Fire Brigade 2 Nkana Red Devils 3. **Nkana Red Devils won 8-3 on agg.**

Esperance 3 Mouloudia d'Oran 2; Mouloudia d'Oran 3 Esperance 1. **Mouloudia d'Oran won 5-4 on agg.**

Mighty Blackpool 2 Djoliba 1; Djoliba 0 Mighty Blackpool 0. **Mighty Blackpool won 2-1 on agg.**

Zimbabwe Sants 0 Express FC 1; Express FC 0 Zimbabwe Saints 1. 1-1 on agg. **Zimbabwe Saints won 4-3 on pens.**

Vita Club 1 Tonnerre Yaounde 1; Tonnerre Yaounde 3 Vita Club 1. **Tonnerre Yaounde won 4-2 on agg.**

AFC Leopards 1 Al-Mourada 0; Al-Mourada 3 AFC Leopards 0. **Al-Mourada won 3-1 on agg.**

JAC Port Gentil 1 Raja Casablanca 1; Raja Casablanca 0 JAC Port Gentil0. 1-1 on agg. **Raja Casablanca won away goals rule.**

Iwuanyanwu Nationale 2 Inter Club 1; Inter Club 2 Iwuanyanwu Nationale 1. 3-3 on agg. **Inter Club won 5-4 on pens.**

QUARTER FINALS

Al-Mourada 1 Mouloudia Oran 0; Mouloudia Oran 4 Al Mourada 0. **Mouloudia Oran won 4-1 on agg.**

Zimbabwe Saints 0 Nkana Red Devils 0; Nkana Red Devils 2 Zimbabwe Saints 1. **Nkana Red Devils won 2-1 on agg.**

Raja Casablanca 2 Inter Club 0; Inter Club 1 Raja Casablanca 0. **Raja Casablanca won 2-1 on agg.**

Mighty Blackpool 0 Tonnerre Yaounde 1; Tonnerre Yaounde 3 Mighty Blackpool 1. **Tonnerre Yaounde won 4-1 on agg.**

SEMI-FINALS

Nkana Red Devils 1 Mouloudia Oran 0; Mouloudia Oran 5 Nkana Red Devils 2. **Mouloudia Oran won 5-3 on agg.**

Raja Casablanca 2 Tonnerre Yaounde 0; Tonnerre Yaounde 2 Raja Casablanca 2. **Raja Casablanca won 4-2 on agg.**

AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Moneni Pirates (Swaziland) 2 Royal Lesotho Defence Force (Lesotho) 0; Royal Lesotho Defence Force 1 Moneni Pirates 0. **Moneni Pirates won 2-1 on agg.**

FIRST ROUND

Dynamos (Zimbabwe) 0 Banky Fampandrosuo ny Varetra FC (Madagascar) 1; Banky Fampandrosuo ny Varetra FC 1 Dynamos 1. **BFV FC won 2-1 on agg.**

Moneni Pirates 1 Power Dynamos (Zambia) 1; Power Dynamos 5 Moneni Pirates 0. **Power Dynamos won 6-1 on agg.**

Coastal Union (Tanzania) 2 Costa do Sol (Mozambique) 3; Costa do Sol 2 Coastal Union 0. **Costa do Sol won 5-2 on agg.**

Gor Mahia (Kenya) walkover v Nakvubo Villa (Uganda) **disqualified.**

Etincelles (Rwanda) 1 Vital'O (Burundi) 0; Vital'O 1 Etincelles 1. **Etincelles won 2-1 on agg.**

USCA (Central African Republic) 3 FC Kalamu (Zaire) 3; FC Kalamu 2 USCA 0. **FC Kalamu won 5-3 on agg.**

Kakande Boke (Guinea) 0 CA Bizerte (Tunisia, holders) 0; CA Bizerte 1 Kakande Boke 0. **CA Bizerte won 1-0 on agg.**

Al-Ahly (Libya) withdrew v Al-Merreikh (Sudan) **walkover.**

Association Sportive des Fonctionnaires de Bobo (Burkins Faso) 1 Linguere (Senegal) 0; Linguere 2 ASFB 1. **2-2 on agg. ASFB won on away goals.**

Diamond Stars 0 Bendel United (Nigeria) 0; Bendel United 2 Diamond Stars 0. **Bendel United won 2-0 on agg.**

UDIB (Guinea Bissau) disqualified v ASI Abengourou (Cote d'Ivoire) **walkover.**

Panthere Bangangte (Cameroon) 0 LPRC Oilers (Liberia) 0; LPRC Oilers 2 Panthere Bangangte 1. **LPRC Oilers won 2-1 on agg.**

Stade Malien (Mali) 3 Club Olympique Transports (Tunisia) 0; CO Transports 0 Stade Malien 0. **Stade Malien won 3-0 on agg.**

Liberte FC (Niger) 1 Union SK Algiers (Algeria) 0; Union SK Algiers 4 Liberte FC 0. **Union SK Algiers won 4-1 on agg.**

Union Vesper (Equatorial Guinea) 0 Patronage (Congo) 1; Patronage 2 Union Vesper 0. **Patronage won 3-0 on agg.**

Vatour Clube Mangoungou (Gambon) 1 Sagrada Esperanca (Angola) 0. Sagrada Esperanca 3 Vator Clube Mangoungou 1. **Sagrada Esperenca won 3-2 on agg.**

SECOND ROUND

Banky Fampandrosuo ny Varetra FC 1 Power Dynamos 2; Power Dynamos 1 Banky Fampandrosuo ny Varetra FC 3. **BFV FC won 4-3 on agg.**

Costa do Sol 1 Gor Mahia 2; Gor Mahia 0 Costa do Sol 0. **Gor Mahia won 2-1 on agg.**

Etincelles 0 FC Kalamu 0; FC Kalamu 1 Etincelles 0. **FC Kalamu won 1-0 on agg.**

CA Bizerte 1 Al Merreikh 0; Al Merreikh 2 CA Bizerte 0. **Al Merreikh won 2-1 on agg.**

Association Sportive des Fonctionnaires de Bobo 1 Bendel United 3; Bendel United 2 Association Sportive des Fonctionnaires de Bobo 0. **Bendel United won 5-1 on agg.**

ASI Abengourou 3 LPRC Oilers 2; LPRC Oilers 2 ASI Abengourou 0. **LPRC Oilers won 4-3 on agg.**

Stade Malien 1 Union SK Algiers 0; Union SK Algiers 1 Stade Malien 0. 1-1 on agg. **Union SK Algiers won 4-3 on pens.**

Patronage 2 Sagrada Esperanca 1; Sagrada Esperanca 0 Patronage 0. **Patronage won 2-1 on agg.**

QUARTER FINAL

Al Merreikh 2 Patronage 0; Patronage 1 Al Merreikh 1. **Al Merreikh won 3-1 on agg.**

Gor Mahia 0 LPRC Oilers 0; LPRC Oilers 1 Gor Mahia 3. **Gor Mahia won 3-1 on agg.**

Bendel United 2 FC Kalamu 0; FC Kalamu 0 Bendel United 1. **Bendel United won 3-0 on agg.**

Union SK Algers 1 Banky Fampandrosuo ny Varetra FC 3; Union SK Algiers withdrew from second leg. **Banky Famprandrosuo ny Varetra FC walkover.**

SEMI-FINALS

Gor Mahia 1 Al Merreikh 0. Al Merreikh 2 Gor Mahia 0. **Al Merreikh won 2-1 won agg.**

Bendel United 4 Banky Fampandrosuo ny Varotra 1; Banky Fampandrosuo ny Varotra 0 Bendel United 0. **Bendel United won 4-1 on agg.**

South Korea (shown in action against China) and United Arab Emirates (right) will provide two of the minnow nations for next year's World Cup finals.

Asian showdown turns up a World Cup shock

BY
PAUL MOON

FEW tournaments have opened with such a prepared script to follow as the final Asian World Cup group.

South Korea, following their outstanding form in the first round, were expected to dominate the affair, with Saudi Arabia and China fighting for the second spot on the road to Italy.

So much for the 'expert' view which dismissed Qatar, United Arab Emirates and North Korea as too inexperienced, too tactically naive and too technically backwards to be legitimate contenders.

The opening day clash between the Saudis and China was, therefore, looked upon as a key encounter.

Cheered on by their own enthusiastic travelling support and 500 local schoolboys, whom an agency had recruited with free grandstand tickets and T-shirts, the Asian Cup holders enjoyed an almost total dominance during the first half and could easily have been four goals ahead at the interval.

Three times, surging runs by star striker Majed Abdullah took him into the Chinese penalty area but, on each occasion, he chose to try and beat a well-positioned goalkeeper instead of feeding unmarked, better placed team mates. At the end of 45 minutes, they only had a goal from a controversial penalty to show for their efforts but had every reason to believe that the match was for the taking.

However, displaying admirable and somewhat uncharacteristic tactical awareness, the Chinese then turned the tide by close marking Saudi Arabia's creative linkmen out of the game and cutting off Majed's supply. Two goals by left winger Mai Chao earned the People's Republic a dramatic win.

Singapore's army of illegal bookmakers immediately slashed the odds against China making a first World Cup finals appearance and the Saudis desperately required a win over Gulf neighbours Qatar four days later in order to get their campaign back on the rails.

Breakaway

A goal within five minutes of kick off by Saadoun Alsuwaiti set the Saudis up for a large, morale-boosting victory, only for them to squander chance after chance during 84 minutes of virtual non-stop attacking. Almost inevitably, just 70 seconds from the final whistle, Qatar staged a rare breakaway which ended with their 34 year old captain, Mansoor Muftah, netting through a neat glancing header.

The general feeling by now was that this just was not going to be Saudi Arabia's tournament. The belief gained further support during the clash with the United Arab Emirates. Once more, the men in green maintained a considerable territorial advantage but again their finishing was woeful. To rub salt in the now substantial wound, Majed fell foul of American referee Vince Mauro on the hour mark and, for the first time in his illustrious career, saw a red card thrust in front of him.

The 0-0 draw meant that a series of miracles was required for them to claim one of the two berths in Italy earmarked for Asia and, at this stage, it seemed that divine intervention was also the one thing capable of stopping South Korea.

The other initial co-favourites had quickly established themselves as the best unit on view in Singapore.

They had endured the ill luck that, perhaps, might have been expected on Friday the thirteenth in their opening game with Qatar. This ended in a goalless draw, but the appropriate result would have been a 3-0 win.

In the 'Clash of the Koreas', the Southerners also let many goal opportunities go begging but this time did convert one without ever looking in the least vulnerable at the other end.

Followers of Jock Stein's great Glasgow Celtic side of the mid sixties often enthused after a game 'we outplayed them 1-0.' South Korean fans are gaining the same habit.

Against China, "Hwarang" pressed forward ceaselessly against a side which clearly had no other objective but a 0-0 draw. Defending in depth and with tenacity, the Chinese held out until the 68th minute when just introduced substitute Lee Young Jin darted down the right flank and found Kim Joo Sung at the far post with a perfect cross. The new Asian Footballer of the Year headed home crisply.

The game may as well have been stopped at that point. Chinese attempts at an equaliser were as desperate as they were futile and their blue shirted opponents merely had to go through the motions to keep them at bay.

Impression

An aggressive, skilful side that includes many gifted individuals, South Korea has gained in both experience and confidence since their 1986 World Cup finals appearances. Given a few breaks, they should make quite an impression in Italy.

An extraordinary form reversal was required for the Saudis to revive their hopes with a victory over them. It never looked likely.

Goals by Hwang Bo Kwan and Hwang Seon Hong two minutes before half time and one minute before the full time

SOUTH KOREA DO IT THEIR WAY

BY BOB PATEMAN

whistle respectively confirmed South Korea's qualification and completed Saudi Arabia's demise. This only left the question of who, among the also rans, would prevail to claim the second ticket to the finals.

China had forfeited the early advantage gained by that early victory over Saudi Arabia.

For much of of their second game, China appeared capable of repeating the 5-0 hammering they handed out to the United Arab Emirates five years earlier on the same ground in an Asian Cup clash.

In the 62nd minute, Tang Yaodong opened the scoring and, it looked likely, the floodgates as the Arabs slipped about hopelessly on a wet pitch – something they rarely encounter at home.

Yet, following the instructions of master strategist Mario Zagalo, the Emirates revised their game plan very effectively. After frustrating China for long periods by retaining possession, seemingly with little attacking intent, in midfield and employing close-marking tactics (shirt tugging being much in evidence) to subdue their attack, UAE gathered itself for a late, desperate assault on the Chinese goal.

Revived

Ironically, it was the slippery surface that the Gulf side had such difficulty with earlier on which ultimately gave it victory.

Dong Liqiang, who came on as an 83rd minute substitute, twice lost his footing when attempting to cut out crosses and unwittingly enabled Khalil Ghanin to head an equaliser with two minutes remaining and then, incredibly, Adman Khamis to drive home the winner on the run as the game moved into stoppage time.

The subsequent loss to South Korea put the Chinese on the ropes, but their hopes were revived by UAE's inability to obtain further wins. Both Saudi Arabia and Qatar secured draws with them and the People's Republic came back into the reckoning with a hard-earned 1-0 win over North Korea.

Lee Young Jin

Qatar and North Korea too retained – at last mathematically – a chance of qualifying and, in order to eliminate the possibility of match rigging, all final round matches were played simultaneously at three different venues.

If China defeated Qatar and UAE failed to beat South Korea, the People's Republic would be through and that looked the likely scenario as the games went into their final five minutes.

Although, understandably, a little lethargic with their objective already having been achieved, South Korea went one up in the eighth minute through Hwang Bo Kwan, only for Adman Khamis to equalise eight minutes later.

After permitting their first goal of the tournament, South Korea's defence never once appeared in danger of conceding a second but the Korean forwards showed little inclination to risk injury and were largely ineffective. A 1-1 draw appeared inevitable from about the 20 minute mark and so it proved.

Displaying far greater resolve than Qatar, China held the upper hand for the vast majority of their clash and were rewarded 13 minutes from full time when Ma Lin forced the ball home amidst one of umpteen goalmouth melees.

Surely now, everybody believed, China would realise the long cherished dream of World Cup finals qualification. But, there was to be a late dramatic twist – plus a final twist of the knife.

For the second time within eleven days, the Chinese showed themselves to be incapable of absorbing sustained pressure. Like UAE earlier, Qatar launched a do or die effort and China crumbled.

First, Mahmood Soofi scored in the 86th minute and then, just two minutes later in what may well be the last act of his international career, Mansoor Muftah netted and plunged the world's most populous nation into despair.

Evident

And so, it is rank outsider United Arab Emirates which will accompany South Korea to Italy.

Now the euphoria over the dramatic finale has subsided, the admission must be made that Asian international soccer has not advanced much during the past four years.

Poor finishing was evident among all the teams and the abundance of late goals can be attributed largely to the general lack of fitness evident in Singapore.

South Korea should acquit themselves well in the finals and, as in 1986, give all opponents encountered some anxious moments.

However, there is little to indicate UAE will do any better than the Gulf's representatives at previous finals, Kuwait and Iraq.

At least, they will give Mario Zagalo the opportunity to again grace a World Cup finals. For that reason alone, their presence will be welcome in Italy.

SOUTH KOREA – Not quite as masterful as they appeared in the early round but still far better than anybody else. With more experience and confidence than four years ago they should produce a surprise or two in Italy. Nobody else plays soccer quite like the Koreans. The South, with the influence of TV and contact with the west have developed a style characterised by a willingness to play the ball at any height, and with any part of the body, giving their matches a touch of Kung Fu and disco dance.

UAE – The most unlikely qualifiers. They played with passion and had a little luck but they don't really have enough quality players to worry a really top class side.

CHINA – What went wrong? At times they had showed world class skill and ability but twice fell apart in the last moments. It is more than mere fitness for the side was well prepared with a long period of training at high altitude. It was perhaps a lack of concentration. Without the pressure of a good national league these players are simply not used to maintaining the pressure for a full ninety minutes match after match. No doubt several of the older names will now be retired and the country faces a period of rebuilding.

QATAR – Showed lots of individual skill and in some ways might have been better representatives in Italy than their Arab neighbours. In the end their good build-up faded in front of the net and they simply didn't score enough goals.

SAUDI ARABIA – The twice Asian champions were the disappointment of the tournament. Solid at the back and with two of the most exciting strikers on view they lost out in midfield. There was little attempt to build up or control play in that vital area.

NORTH KOREA – North Korea's isolation showed. The side lacked imagination and they tended to fade towards the end of the game. North Korean football is simply not going to get better without more contact with the west. Happily they kept their tempers and had a good discipline record.

FINAL POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	F-A	Pts
South Korea	5	3	2	0	5-1	8
UAE	5	1	4	0	4-3	6
Qatar	5	1	3	1	5-5	5
China	5	2	0	3	5-6	4
Saudi	5	1	2	2	4-5	4
North Korea	5	1	1	3	2-4	3

Yamaha crash in the League Cup Final

NISSAN SOON INTO TOP GEAR

NISSAN Motors have maintained their dominance of Japanese domestic soccer.

Winners of all three major competitions last season, Nissan retained the first of these to be contested during the 1989-90 campaign when defeating Yamaha 1-0 in the Japan Soccer League Cup Final.

International midfielder Takashi Mizunuma scored the all-important goal in the 26th minute, following some excellent work by Japan's leading player of contemporary times, Kazushi Kimura (left). Overall, however, the match was a lacklustre affair.

MALAYSIA: The FA will not extend the contract of English coach Trevor Hartley, who recently guided the national team to a first South East Asia Games success in ten years.

FAM president, Sultan Ahmad Shah, when making the announcement, stated that Malaysia's senior side had only a couple of international engagements during the next two years – the 1990 Asian games and 1991 South East Asia Games – and such a sparse programme did not warrant the retention of a foreign professional coach.

Although this may well be true, most observers of South East Asian soccer believe the decision was, at least partially, influenced by the long-standing animosity which exists between Hartley, who leaves Kuala Lumpur in January, and a prominent FAM official.

Malaysia will be represented by its Olympic selection at both the King's Cup in Thailand and Jakarta Anniversary Tournament early next year.

OMAN: AL NASR, the season's most consistent team, deservedly captured the 1989 Omani Super League title – their first major honour for nine years.

Shrugging off the disappointment of a third successive defeat at the hands of Al Ahli, in the final of the Sultan Qaboos Cup (Oman's premier knockout tournament and traditional season opener) the Salalah club always appeared to have a distinct edge over its rivals during the League campaign.

Even so, The Blues finished the campaign just two points ahead of the occasionally brilliant, but often woeful, Aruba.

Al Nasr's success was a just reward for Algerian coach Abdul Aziz Safafi who adopted an effective counter-attacking style for his charges and implemented a code of discipline which is rare in Omani football.

Darwis saga goes on ...

INDONESIA: The fuss about Robby Darwis goes on and on. First he tried to get around his suspension to play in the S. E. Asian Games. That move was prevented thanks to the intervention of FIFA. Kelantan T.A. then took the Malaysian F.A. to court in the hope of preventing them enforcing the year suspension on the player. The argument was not around whether Davis struck s referee last July, but whether the Malaysian F.A. had carried out their legal paperwork correctly.

However FIFA, having already been involved in this dispute, were not pleased with this new development. Their advice to the Malaysian F.A. was to order Kelantan to immediately withdraw their legal move or face suspension. They also suggested that Kelantan's actions already merited a fine.

Yuxin shines

CHINA won the Great Wall cup as part of their final, vain, preparation for the World Cup but it was a diluted affair with big name teams being unwilling to visit Bejing at this time. Instead two Chinese sides, the World Cup squad and an Olympic squad, competed against Pyongyang of North Korea and Chernomorets of Russia.

Xie Yuxin was the early start of the competition, hitting 4 goals in the first two games. He struck in the 60th and 71st minute against Chernomorets to secure the side's second win. In between these goals however Kondrataev Jeorgli scored on a fast break and Chinese goalkeeper Zhang Weikang was injured and stretchered off.

On the same day the Olympic team, having lost 2-0 to the World Cup squad, beat the Korean club side 3-1. This left the Chinese national team needing only a draw to take the title.

Playing Pyongyang they went ahead through Wu Qunli after just five minutes. They then survived a missed penalty and went two up late in the second half. Pak Wan-choi who had missed the spot kick, made some amends with a consolation goal.

The tournament is staged annually to celebrate the founding of the Chinese Republic.

ASIA

Napier clinch title

THE 1989 Air New Zealand National Soccer League produced the most exciting, and closest, finish in the competition's history. To use what has developed into a well worn cliche, but is none the less accurate for that, it wasn't decided until the last kick of the campaign.

After the penultimate round, Mount Maunganui, leader for most of the season, enjoyed a two point advantage over Napier City Rovers. Neither of these clubs from the east coast of the North Island had previously won the title.

In the final matches, Mount Maunganui played host to middle of the table Manurewa while Napier visited bottom placed Papatoetoe. Both encounters proved to be nerve-racking affairs.

Blunder

Napier had to rely upon a dreadful defensive blunder (the Papatoetoe full back failed to trap a simple tap out from his goalkeeper and presented an open goal) for its 2-1 win. No such gifts came Mount Maunganui's way.

Although looking somewhat jaded at times, The Mount still applied a great deal of pressure and had numerous strikes at goal only to find Frank van Hattum, one of New Zealand's 1982 World Cup heroes and a former Mount Maungauni player himself, in superb form between the sticks.

The Bay of Plenty club's best scoring opportunity came in the 87th

THAILAND: The worst fears have come true and Thailand face a bribe scandal after the South East Asian Games tournament. Thailand lost the last two games, a 1-0 semi-final defeat to Malaysia and then the play off game, and on their return the Thai F.A. set up a five man committee to investigate the suggestions that certain players had been bribed.

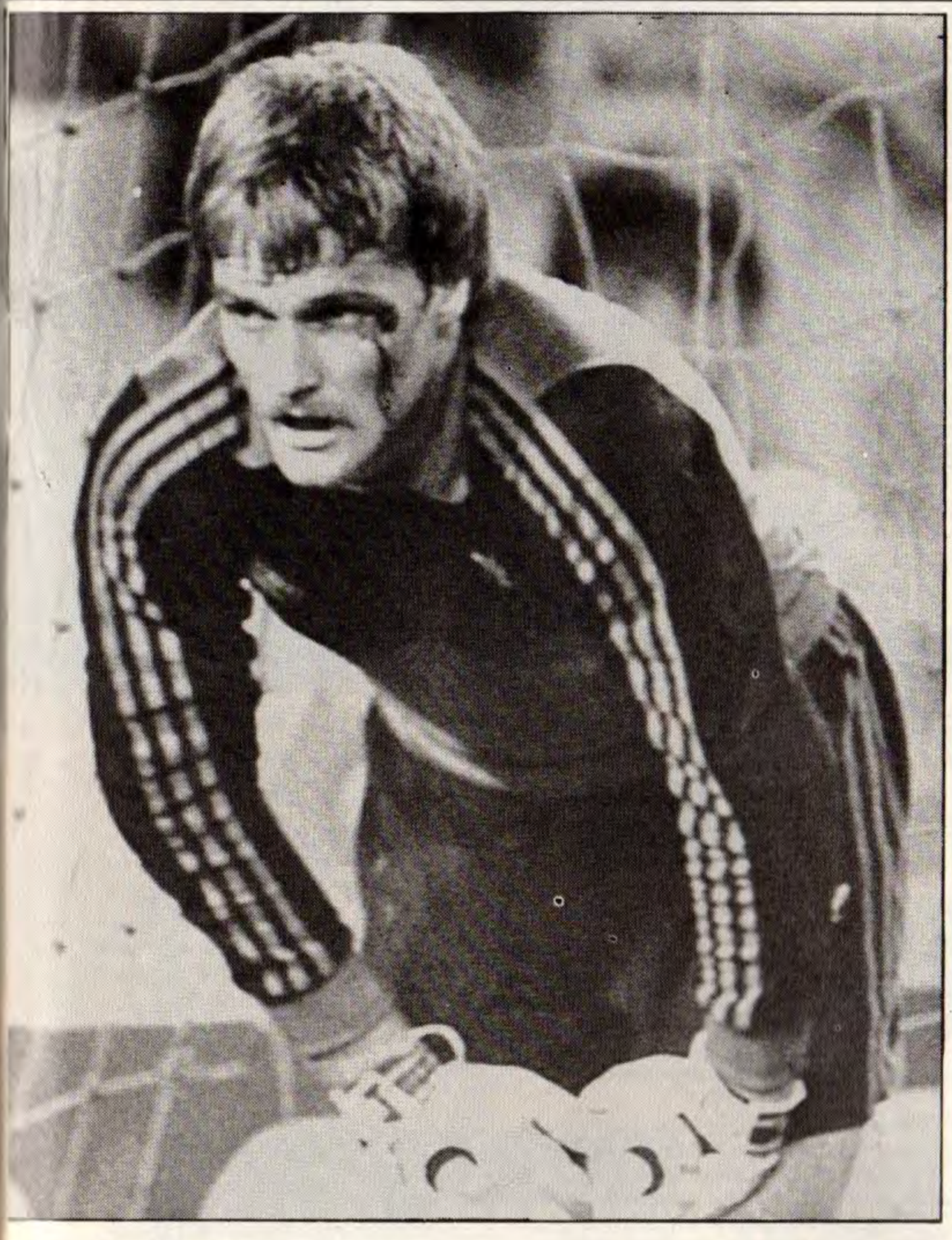
Prime Minister General Chatichai Choonhavan however expressed his disapproval of the investigation saying: "I do not blame any member of the national team for the poor showing in the sea Games. It is not important to win or to lose but to excel in sportsmanship during competition.

"These latest developments are not good for the players. I hope it will not set a precedent for more witch hunts when other Thai sportsmen fall short of expectations".

Despite that the five man committee concluded that some players did take bribes. National team manager Udomsak Ujjin had already resigned just minutes after the semi-final defeat.

Chatichai Choonhavan

OCEANIA From Paul Moon and Bob Pateman



Frank van Hattum – top form.

minute when its outstanding player of the season, former Notts County linkman Declan Edge, was uprooted in the penalty area. By now, the feeling was that this was going to be van Hattum's day and, sure enough, he dived full length to his right and brilliantly deflected a well struck spot kick clear of danger.

The 0-0 draw meant that both Napier and Mount Maunganui had identical records (16 wins, 7 draws and 3 losses) until it came to goal difference. Napier's was plus 21 and Mount Maunganui's plus 20.

Napier's success owes a great deal to the know how of former British professionals. Coached by Keith Buckley, who was once on Huddersfield Town's books, its playing personnel included Harry Clarke (ex Hartlepool United), Clive Holmes (Aldershot), David Kirk (Leicester City), Gary Locke (Chelsea) and Gary Parker (Berwick Rangers).

In addition, the pride of Hawke's Bay soccer enjoyed the services of two young Wimbledon reserves on loan – Brian McAllister and Jonathon Gould (son of the Dons' manager, Bobby).

Napier has benefited immensely from the link it forged some years ago with Wimbledon; regularly engaging young players from the south London club on loan and sending away some of its own developing talent to Plough Lane to gain experience in English reserves and youth grades football.

Also, back in 1982, Napier recruited from Wimbledon the services of its Commercial and Publicity Officer,

Declan Edge

Colin Stone. In the intervening years, Stone has done much to make "The Dolphins" one of New Zealand's most financially sound clubs and, beyond any doubt, the most helpful to the local soccer media.

Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of the 1989 New Zealand season was the fact that the country's two best administered clubs, Napier City Rovers and Chatham Cup winners Christchurch United, carried off the two major honours. Hopefully, the rest of them will recognise the significance of that.

Fiji land the 'secret' cup

FIJI, although without the services of several leading players, who are still serving suspensions as the consequence of their walkout from training camp last January, comfortably retained the Melanesia Cup.

This is surely the most obscure of the many regional tournaments on the international soccer calendar.

Contested by the Melanesian island states of the Pacific and sponsored by the Rothmans Tobacco Company, it was inaugurated last year when Fiji carried off the trophy in Honiara, Solomon Islands. This time, it was Fiji's turn to stage the event.

The hosts accounted for Papua New Guinea (2-1), Vanuatu (2-1) and eventual runners up New Caledonia (3-0) before the Solomons held them to a 0-0 draw on the last day of competition – by which time the tournament had already been won.

On the domestic front Nadroga, affectionately known throughout Fiji as "The Coral Coast Stallions", confirmed themselves as the South Pacific nation's top team at the current time by winning both the Pops Drinks National League title and Inter-Districts Championship.

Only after losing three key players, all of whom defected to rival teams late in the season, did Nadroga look at all vulnerable. By then, the League had already been secured and, despite a couple of final phase hiccups, the Sigatoka-based side still finished a healthy nine points clear of second placed Rewa.

When Nadroga opened its campaign in the Inter-Districts Championship, the blue ribband event of Fijian soccer which always brings the season to a climax, with a 1-0 loss against the mediocre Nasinu outfit, the Stallions appeared to have shot their bolt. But, displaying admirable resilience, they recovered to top their preliminary group and then downed Rewa 1-0 in the semi finals.

Decider

The IDG is something of an endurance test; requiring its finalists to play six games in five days (and English first division clubs complain of fixture congestion!). Not surprisingly, neither Nadroga or final opponents Lautoka were at their best in the tournament decider.

Despite Lautoka enjoying the support of the vast majority amongst a 12,000 crowd at its own Churchill Park ground, Nadroga prevailed through a goal by captain Radike Nawalu nine minutes after half time.

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MARCONI TAKE THE BISCUIT

Any reader seeing a reference to Marconi; Australian champions for the past two seasons, could be forgiven for believing it to be a works team – a sort of antipodean PSV Eindhoven.

In fact, Marconi's links with the electronics company of the same name are extremely tenuous.

When a group of Sydney domiciled Italian immigrants met in 1958 to form a recreational and sporting club (with soccer, of course, to be the principal sporting activity), they had great difficulty in agreeing upon a name acceptable to the majority present.

Unlike many other groups of exiled compatriots in similar situations, they decided against Juventus. Clubs of that name were already well established in Adelaide and Melbourne and, besides, there were too many supporters of Torino and the two Milanese giants, A.C. and Internazionale, in attendance.

For a time, the notion of following the examples of England's Tottenham Hotspur and O'Higgins in Chile and adopting the name of a national military hero held sway. It was then pointed out that many Australians only knew Garibaldi as a biscuit and such a title would open the club to ridicule from rival supporters.

Eventually, the majority agreed to name their fledgling organisation after Guglielmo Marconi, the developer of radio telegraphy, a revered figure in Italy and an Italian respected throughout the world.

Once christened, the new club's growth in stature was slow and unspectacular. Not promoted to the New South Wales State League First Division until 1969, it then soon became noted for its ability to peak in form at precisely the right time of a season.

BY PAUL MOON

Although never finishing the "regular season" at the top of the First Division table, Marconi twice triumphed in the play-off series which traditionally bring football campaigns to a climax in Australia.

Victories in the 1972 and 1973 Grand finals saw Marconi proclaimed New South Wales Champions in both those years.

Two players from the club, Ray Richards and Ernie Campbell, travelled to the 1974 World Cup finals as Australia made its first and, to date, only appearance in a Mundial.

Superior

In West Germany, the Socceroos were coached by Yugoslav Rale Rasic. He resigned his position shortly after returning to Sydney and was in charge of Marconi three years later when it lined up with thirteen other clubs for the Australian national league's inaugural season.

Only a superior goal difference enabled Eastern Suburbs to pip Marconi in the first League Championship race, but the 1979 title was won in emphatic style by a young, exciting combination under the wing of Les Scheinflug, who had replaced Rasic at the commencement of the season.

That side looked capable of dominating Australian soccer for many years to come, yet the early 1980s brought far more frustrations than honours to the south Sydney outfit. It did win the National Cup in 1980, however slipping to fourth position in the League. Scheinflug then left to take control of the Socceroos. He was badly missed – Marconi finished its 1981 programme third from bottom and avoided relegation by just four points.

Two more disappointing campaigns followed; in both the club had to be content with placings below the half way mark, before Scheinflug returned. He replaced former Burnley player Doug Collins – the fifth coach at Bossley Park in three years.

Scheinflug steadied the ship, however silverware still remained exasperatingly elusive. Unable to fulfil the ambitions of the club's supporters and officials, the West German left in 1986.

Despite gaining a respectable fourth place in 1987, ex star player Ray Vieri also found the pressure too much and stood aside for a fellow member of the 1979 Championship winning side – Berti Mariani.

A product of its youth programme, Mariani had made over 150 senior appearances for Marconi but his coaching experience was very limited when he took over the reins.

Bruges based Frank Farina

Much to the pleasure of Marconi supporters and the surprise of everybody, Mariani immediately proved he had a Midas touch. His team was always amongst the League's front runners in 1988 and prevailed in the end of season "finals" – even though a penalty shoot out was required before Sydney Croatia succumbed in the Grand Final.

There may have been numerous quibbles over Marconi's right to be called Champions last year but very few were expressed at the end of the recently completed term.

The pride of Sydney's Italian community finished a healthy six points ahead of runner up St. George in the League and, despite having to contend with more than its fair share of problems in the play offs, showed a true champion's pedigree when the chips were down.

Career

Marconi's latest success was gained without the services of two key players from the previous year. Inspirational captain Tony Henderson had hung up his boots after an illustrious career (his last kick in those boots being the Championship winning penalty against Sydney Croatia) and Frank Farina moved to F.C. Bruges in an attempt to follow in the footsteps of another ex Bossley Park favourite, Eddie Krncevic, and make a name for himself in Europe.

Farina, twice the League's leading goalscorer and the current Oceania Footballer of the Year, appeared to be irreplaceable. But by recruiting utility player John Paul de Marigny, a Socceroos reject, from Sydney's other "Italian" club A.P.I.A., giving veteran Yugoslav midfielder Zlatko Nastevski a greater attacking role and making other, minor, tactical changes, Mariani turned his side into an even more potent force.

Not only did Nastevski top the League scorers' chart, but he also broke the club's record for goals in a single season and was named National Soccer League Player of the Year.

Apart from Nastevski's accolades, other individual honours to come Marconi's way included the Players' Player of the Year award for midfielder Ian Gray and, predictably, the Coach of the Year trophy for Mariani.

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The Brian Glanville COLUMN

COME, FLY – to put the World Cup straight

Colombia's Uzurriaga ended Israel's World Cup hopes.

COSTA Rica and the United States will be going to the World Cup. Denmark and France won't. The United Arab Emirates will be there to delight us all with their attractive football. Portugal will be staying at home.

What a way, you might think, to run a World Cup, but under the aegis of the ineffable Havelange (no, those awful sycophants didn't get him the Nobel Peace Prize, but then if Kissinger got it, why not he?) that is how things go.

Over 20 years ago, I deplored the fact that the Afro-Asian countries were demanding extra World Cup places as of right – places they have now got – as opposed to campaigning for a de-zoned qualifying tournament, in which they could qualify on merit. I said at the time that it was ironic that the African countries, in particular, were so happy to resort to the uses of paternalism, when for years they had been screaming abuse at its very name. FIFA, I complained, had not yet come to terms with the phenomenon of jet travel. Nor have they yet.

Assorted

Let me say at once that my own attitudes have changed; as African football has changed. It has come on by leaps and bounds in the intervening two decades. Indeed, it was, at that time. Already furnishing Portugal with such marvellous players as Eusebio and Coluna, each of whom would distinguish himself in the World Cup.

The French League, with players from countries as assorted as Cameroon – qualified again, I'm delighted to see – Senegal, Morocco, Algeria and even Liberia – has every reason for deep gratitude to African football, without which it would be deprived of a wonderfully rich source of players. As things now stand in Africa, I think there is every reason to increase the number of qualifiers from a mere two; but to do it, once again, not as a mere privilege, but as something achieved on the field.

The CONCACAF group has been a kind of footballing dustbin. Once the Mexicans, eternal qualifiers, *faute de mieux,* were expelled for finagling at youth level, the field became farcical. The United States, to the enormous joy of FIFA, scraped through at the very end, with their 1-0 win in Trinidad, but *mutatis mutandis,* who can seriously maintain that this gallumphing side of corn fed college boys (yes, I know all about Perez, the exception who proves the rule) holds a candle to the magnificent eleven which beat England in Belo Horizonte in 1950, and gave Spain such a good run for their money?

Recently, an American football writer rang me from Chicago, and fully agreed with my forecast that in 1994, the USA will make a superb job of organising the World Cup, that the journalists will love every minute of it – the Ken Bates/Bob Lord Phenomenon is quite unknown there – that the crowds will be huge; and that when it is all over, the game will go to sleep again.

A young American intellectual writing years ago in the New York magazine Commentary put it perfectly when he said that soccer remained an un-American activity.

Yes, of course, it is played in their tens of thousands by the children of wealthy families in the suburbs, by college boys – who stay there too long to become pros of any stature – by hulking girls whose Amazonian shapes recall the words of Oscar Wilde, so finely prescient: that football was really a game for rough girls. Perhaps they should make up America's World Cup team.

Then of course, there has been the scandalously unjust treatment of the team FIFA, for security reasons, didn't want in Italy at any cost: Israel. Talk about the labours of Hercules. Talk about bringing back the broomstick of the wicked witch of the West. Talk about FIFA being perfectly happy to recognise the jet plane when it suits them.

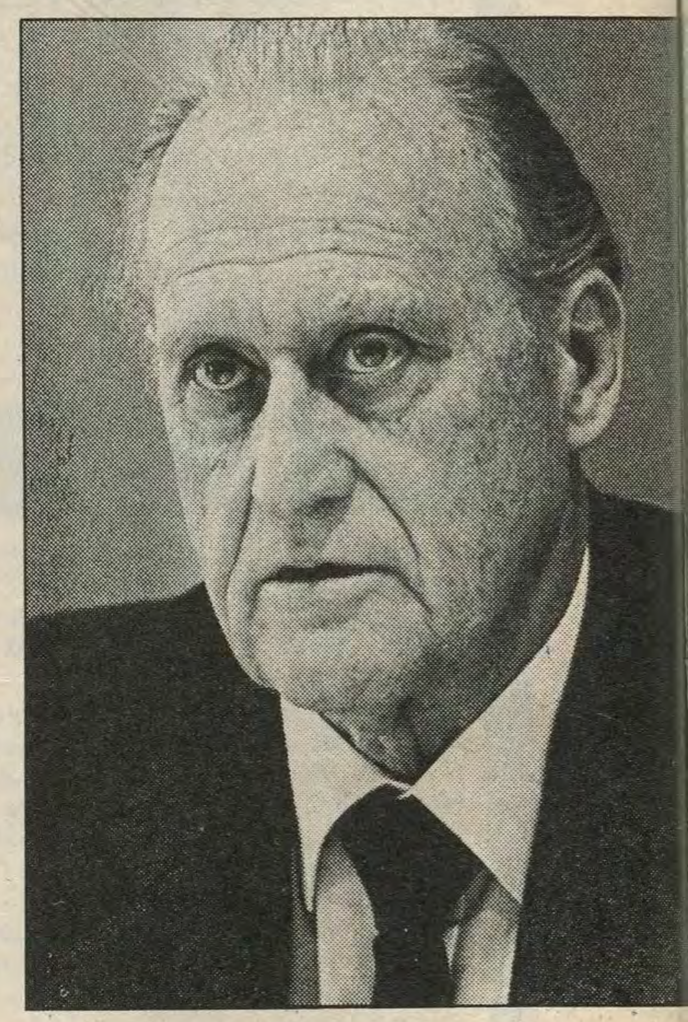
Israel had to travel all the way to Australia, for the right to ... play Colombia home and away. And as we know, Colombia won, thanks to that lanky, exciting, second half black right winger, Uzurriaga. To an extent, Israel had themselves to blame for their wretchedly negative approach in Barranquilla, ultimately condemning them to defeat by Uzurriaga's single goal; but that is hardly the point. Their position was rather that of a man who sets out to run a race with a ball and chain round his leg.

Logical

The casuists and apologists of FIFA will no doubt object speciously that this is a *World* Cup, which means it should embrace the world. Dishonest nonsense. What it should do is give every team in the world a chance to qualify, but see to it that when the finals are played, the 24 teams which dear Havelange has inflicted on us are the best in the world.

Yes, the gap is narrowing. Yes, we are forever being told that there are "no more easy matches." Yes, I am well aware that the United States surpassed themselves in beating Roma in a pre season tournament in Italy, then gave Juventus a decent run for their money in the States. But you know what I mean.

What to do, then? A more just and logical system would take a good deal of working out, but essentially, it seems to me that jet travel should allow African and European teams to meet one another; after a certain stage. That is to say, the present weeding out process in Africa should continue as a preliminary qualifying tournament, with say, that last eight at least going into the hat with European teams.



Joao Havelange.

Qualifiers in the two weakest groups, CONCACAF and Asia, should not go automatically into the finals, but should be obliged to play-off against teams from the European, perhaps the South American, and even the African groups.

It has often been alleged by the Europeans that the South Americans, given the number of countries involved, have too high a representation, but that is hardly true today when the winner of one group is then, quite unfairly in my view, obliged to play off against the top team in the Oceania group.

Of course many of these problems had their origin in Havelange's specious election campaign for the presidency of FIFA in Frankfurt in 1974. All sorts of promises were made, not least to the African countries, and of course they had to be largely redeemed. Hence, *inter alia,* the fiasco of a 24 team World Cup,

WITH ME

with all its *longueurs*, and its mathematical intractability.

Nothing is likely to be done. The European associations, encouraged by the late Artemio Franchi of Italy, looked at first as if they might put up a fight, then cravenly and selfishly decided not to, bribed by the prospect of a large extension of the European entry. Yes, Europe have done reasonably well out of the expansion. There could well be more European teams in the Finals than there really ought to be. One a group, under the old regime, was an ideal number. But elephantiasis has long since set in.

Sad, though, that North Korea should have faded away since their glorious achievements of 1966, when they beat the Italians and went into a 3-0 lead in the quarter finals against Portugal, until Eusebio got going. Pak Doo Ik, the man who scored the goal which humiliated the Italians at Middlesbrough, was their team manager in the play-offs in Singapore.

Costly

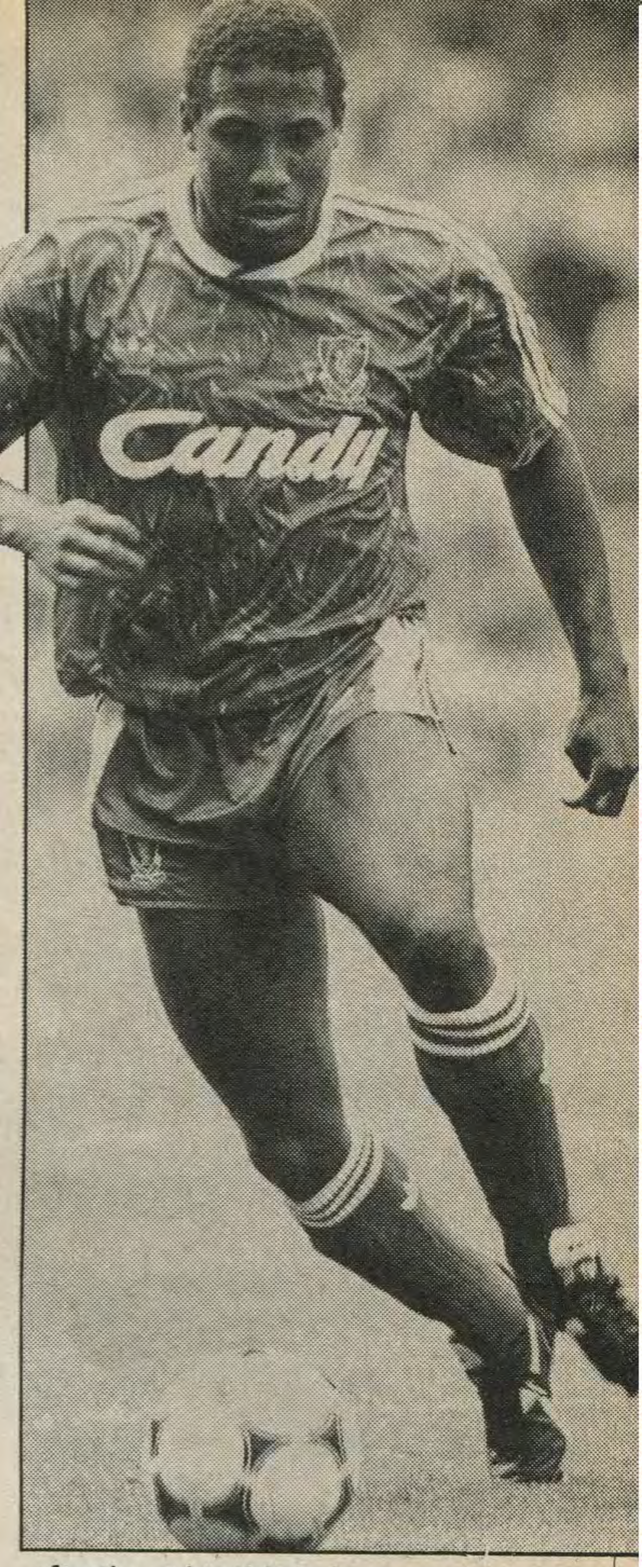
But the decision to withdraw into far from splendid isolation after the triumphs of 1966 has been immensely costly. Far from maintaining or improving the spectacular standard they set then, with their fluid attacking football, the North Koreans have slipped further and further behind, overtaken even by the South Koreans, who have produced over the past decade a number of exceptional players; not least the winger Tscha Boom Kun, who did so well in the Bundesliga. It is South Korea we will see – though not for long, I imagine – in Italy next June.

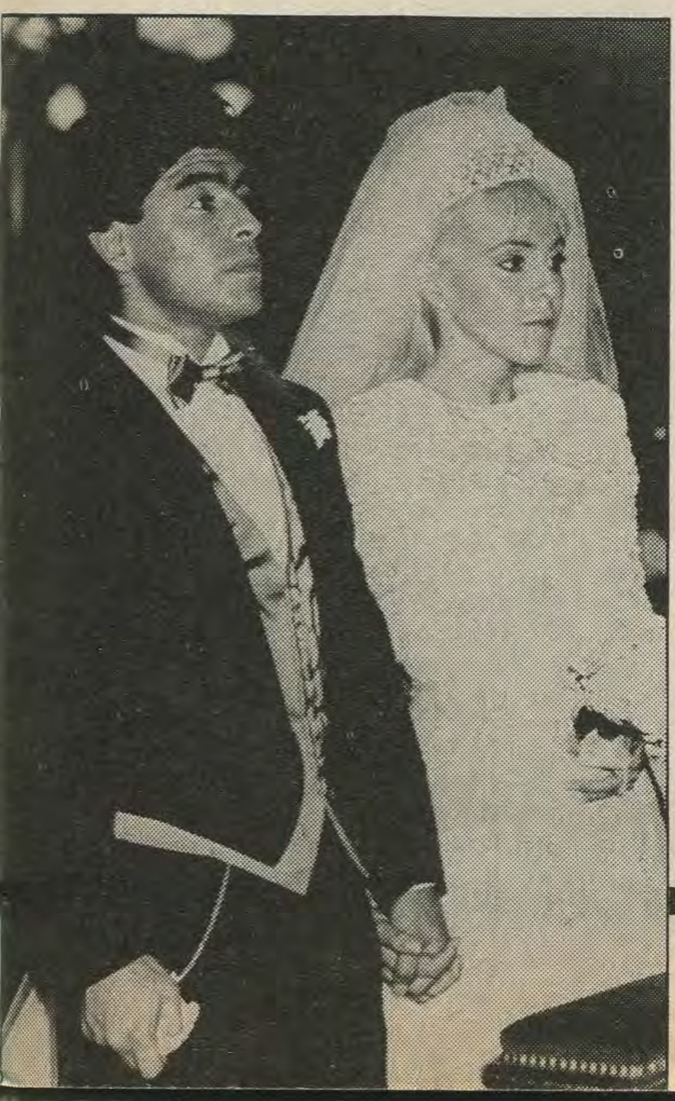
I DANCED with a man who danced with a man who danced with ... the centre-forward of Brazil.

Yes, folks, it really happened; at Luna Park, Buenos Aires, on the occasion of Diego Maradona's wedding. Careca, Naples' centre-forward and Brazil's, was among the guests. Seeing him there, Carlos Bilardo, team manager of Argentina, ordered another guest José Luis Brown, sweeper, and scorer of his country's first goal in the last World Cup Final, to dance with Careca. He wanted, said Bilardo, to see who was the taller, and was greatly relieved to perceive that Brown was three or four centimetres taller than Careca.

I still fancy Brazil more than Argentina in Italy.

Liam Brady (right) and John Barnes (far right) have delighted me with individual displays of supreme skill recently.





IT IS fashionable, and perhaps justifiable, to denigrate the English Championship these days. Much of the football is grimly functional and aesthetically impoverished; long balls being perpetually, relentlessly booted up to bring central strikers (Arsenal, take your place in the dock along with Wimbledon, Millwall and so many others). But there *are* flashes of light in the gloom, whose sheer scarcity value perhaps enhances them.

Two of the performances which have given me most pleasure this season have been those of Liam Brady, for West Ham United in their League Cup replay versus Aston Villa, and John Barnes, in Liverpool's League win at Millwall. Each was an affirmation of individual talent, the power of flair and technique to influence a game, even in this crude epoch of biff, bang and the long ball.

Villa had just thrashed Everton 6-2 in a television match, and could well be expected to run riot. They were never allowed to. Until Brady tired a little near the end – as a man is surely entitled to do when he has run so much and done so much, at the age of 33 – he virtually ran the game, always in space to receive the ball, never wasting it when he had it, laying it off when he had to, to a well placed colleague, or finding another with a beautifully conceived and executed ball, often angled to perfection.

After the game, his manager, Lou Macari, no mean footballer himself in his time, said he had never seen Brady play so well or work so hard. Which led, I confess, to an ironic afterthought: this being so, why had Macari previously been so reluctant to put Brady in the team, not least on the occasion when they lost an important home League game to a dour Leeds team, making excessive use of an offside trap which Brady would surely have sprung.

Howard Wilkinson, Leeds manager, gave one of his idiosyncratic talkathons after the game, and murmured that when Brady did come on, he had not been allowed to achieve anything. But by that time, the die was cast and the game was lost and won.

Barnes, three days after playing a poor game for England, at outside-left, against Italy, was properly used as central striker against Millwall, and showed that this is the role he must surely fill for England. It gave him the opportunity to show all his great gifts and none of his weaknesses; his pace, his power, his glorious technique.

To see him conjure the ball away from the bruising Millwall defence with flicks and feints, sometimes spinning on it several times to deceive them, to see him lob a beautifully judged goal, to see him hold off the fiercest challenges, was an absolute delight. He had looked almost as dangerous a week earlier at Shepherds Bush when Dalglish belatedly moved him into the middle against Queen's Park Rangers.

One hears that his instructions when playing for England have been always to stay within five yards of his left-back. Talk about harnessing a racehorse to a plough. But this England is the gloomy product of two gloomy coaches. It is much too late now for Don Howe, proponent of the long ball at Wimbledon, to "go public" with pious mouthings about changing the style and getting defenders forward.

If he thinks that now, why did he join Wimbledon? And why did he not make his voice heard years ago?

Meanwhile, let us not be deceived by that heavy breathing draw against disappointing Italy. And let us not forget Carnevale did score a perfectly good goal (just as the penalty he won against Bulgaria in Cesena was a fiasco).

Brazilian fans of boardroom politics

FROM BRIAN HOMEWOOD IN RIO DE JANEIRO

Mirandinha might wish he were back at Newcastle

Going to a football match in Brazil is currently as exciting as watching wood warp or listening to grass grow.

The recent performances of the Brazilian national team may have lured some of the less wary into the false impression that the country's domestic football is improving as well. Do not be deceived!

The 1989 Copa União, which started in September and is just finishing has been marked by tedious football, microscopic attendances and more violence than a Charles Bronson film. Needless to say there has been all the usual wrangling off the field as well with one club going to court to try and stop the championship and allegations of bribery amongst the referees.

CBF chief Ricardo Teixeira can rabbit on until he is blue in the face about how he is bringing "credibility" to Brazilian football and making it "serious" but the truth is that he has done nothing to show that he is any better than his predecessors when it comes to "organising" competitions.

At the time of writing the CBF had still to divulge the fixture list for the second half of the competition and most teams were having to train without knowing where or against who they would be playing at the weekend. Corinthians, for example, did not discover until October 31 that on November 4 they would be playing Cruzeiro at home. The situation was described as "an incredible lack of respect for the supporter" by television commentator Marcio Guedes.

The CBF had originally astonished everyone by drawing up a fixture list for the first round of the competition five months in advance. But when it came to the second round, for which 16 of the original 22 teams qualified, it was back to the old chaotic situation.

To complicate matters further, it looked at one stage as if the competition would be suspended. This followed the CBF's decision to ban Coritiba for one year and relegate them to the second division after they failed to turn up for a match against Santos. Coritiba then took the case to court and won an order which suspended the competition.

The CBF managed to get the decision overturned a few days later but maybe it would have been better if the court had stuck to its original decision and put the Copa União out of its misery. The first half of the competition was a story of boring matches played on dreadful pitches in empty stadiums. The average attendance for the first round matches was 9,482.

Part of the problem was that nearly all the teams insisted on playing with a defensive formation. In addition, the referees were far too tolerant and Teixeira's claims that they were going to be instructed to follow FIFA regulations sounded extremely hollow as violence and dissent went unpunished. "In Brazil, you can kick below the knee as much as you want," commented Juarez Soares of TV Bandeirantes.

Deliberate

The worst case involved the ex-Newcastle player Mirandinha who received a deliberate and full-blooded kick in the face while lying on the ground from Grêmio player Barci.

On this occasion the referee did actually dip into his pocket and get out the red card. But the punishment that Barci subsequently received – a six match ban – was ludicrously lenient, especially considering that Mirandinha suffered facial injuries that kept him out of the rest of the championship.

It did not come as too much of a surprise when Aulio Nazarena, the president of Cobraf, the CBF's refereeing department, resigned in mid-October. He claimed that attempts had been made to bribe referees, complained of pressures from the state federations of Rio and Sao Paulo and accused the CBF of not backing his department.

An irritated Teixeira replied the next day. He said that the CBF had given full backing to Cobraf and demanded, rightly on this occasion, that Nazarena be more specific in his allegations regarding bribery.

The CBF has aggravated the problems with some truly absurd and illogical decisions, such as making Portuguesa play their home game against Flamengo in the Morumbi stadium rather than their own Canindé. If Portuguesa had been unable to even half fill the 30,000 capacity Canindé, a perfectly acceptable stadium, what was the point of them playing in the 150,000 capacity Morumbi?

Teixeira, in his usual unhelpful manner, refused to comment on the matter saying only that "the CBF has the right to determine the venue."

The cause of all of the problems facing Brazilian football can be summed up in one word: directors. According to Flamengo manager Valdir Espinosa, one of the reasons the standard of domestic football is so low is that Brazil's club directors change managers too often.

By the start of November, Varco and Fluminense were both on their fourth manager of the year, while Internacional required three managers to take them through the first ten games of the Copa União.

Espinosa is one of Brazil's top managers and has something of a Midas touch. In 1983 he won the Copa Libertadores and World Club Championship with Grêmio. In 1987 he helped win the Paraguayan championship for Cerro Torteno – the first time they had won a title for ten years. And this year, he led Botafogo to their first title win in 21 years.

For all his experience Espinosa admits that "It is very difficult to be a manager in Brazil because you never know until when you will have the job." Espinosa claims that "in Brazil, you arrive at a club today and you have to be champions yesterday."

The result of this philosophy, Espinosa says, is that there is neither time for the manager to implant his ideas on the players or for the players to get used to the methods of the manager – "If the manager had two or three years, you can do some planning to help you reach your target. The team has a philosophy and you can get everyone working in the same way for a long period of time.

"But here this does not happen. You have one way of working one day and the next day you have a new manager and a new method. So everything changes.

"In one year each team changes three or four managers. Each one has different ideas but as soon as the players get used to one set of ideas, the manager goes and everything changes again. The insecurity is also a problem. When you have insecurity, you don't want to take any risks, you stick in defence rather than look to attack and because of this you perform poorly and the supporters don't bother going to the grounds."

Lack of patience is not the club directors' only fault. One person closely connected to Flamengo football club claimed that "a large number of directors are vain."

"In the first year in charge they tend to be a bit careful," he said. "But after that they start getting involved in everything."

Peculiar

There are plenty of club directors who have the rather peculiar idea that they know more about football than the manager himself.

"A lot of times it is the directors who contract players," Espinosa said. "It is not a general thing but it happens. At times I ask for a player and he turns up. But one week later another one comes along who I don't want. Long term planning does not exist, it is done day by day."

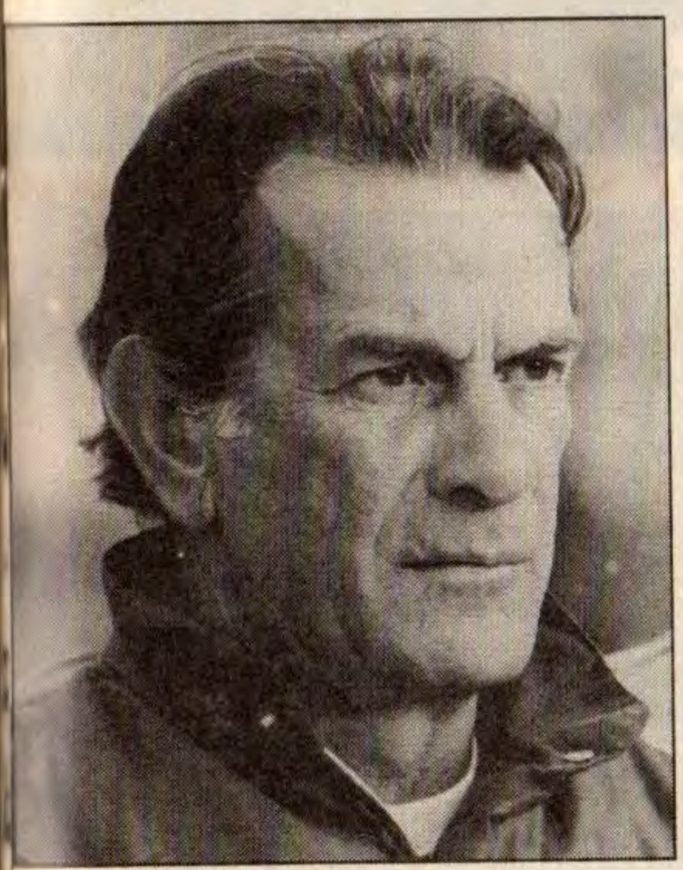
Few people really believe that it was Tele Santana who brought the highly individualistic – some would say greedy – and temperamental winger Renato back to Flamengo in September given that during his national team days Santana had axed the same player from the Brazil squad on the eve of the 1986 World Cup.

The two initially shook hands in front of the cameras but you always had the sneaking suspicion that it was a token gesture. The truce was not unexpectedly broken shortly afterwards when Renato was substituted at half-time during a game against Corinthians.

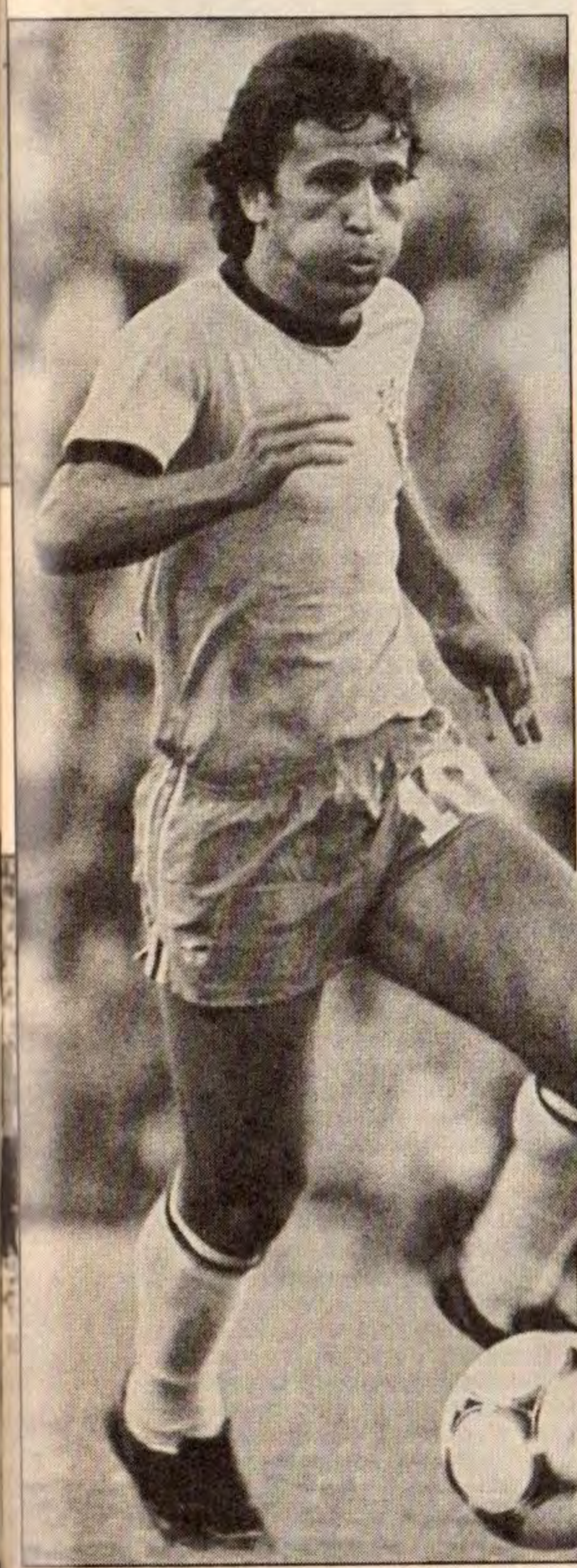
The only criticism that could have been made against Santana was that, given Renato's appalling performance, he had waited too long before taking the player off. Despite this, Santana received a stream of

Renato – substituted.

pay price



Tele Santana.



unpublishable words from the irate Renato in the changing room, yet the Flamengo directors gave no backing to Santana and took no action against Renato. Santana resigned two days later and took charge of Fluminense in October.

The man he replaced – Procópio – had been the victim of another unfortunate habit that is fairly common of Brazilian directors – that of trying to interfere in the naming of the team. Procópio left after the club's vice-president, Alexandre Fogaça, demanded an explanation as to why he had not included the out of form Rinaldo in his team.

Procópio replied that he did not have to give explanations to anyone and announced his resignation. It is worth pointing out that it was Fogaça who contracted Rinaldo in the first place and that it had been Procópio who had been largely responsible for getting his young team some reasonable results.

All this followed the infamous Charles episode, when the CBF hierachy attempted to force national team manager Sebastião Lazaroni to put the Bahia player in his squad for the Copa America. Lazaroni also held out but kept his job by the skin of his teeth.

If they are not sacking managers, many directors like to indulge in a bit of mud-throwing, aften choosing each other as the targets. There were some fairly typical outbursts following the Vacco-São Paulo match which ended in the result most commonly seen on the sports pages of Brazilian newspapers – 0-0.

Qualified

São Paulo president Juvenal Juvêncio moaned about how referee Armando César Coelho failed to give his team two penalties and claimed that: "Vasco are taking over the CBF." Meanwhile, the infamous Eurico Miranda, a director of both Vasco and the CBF, claimed that two São Paulo players should have been sent off.

"São Paulo qualified, God knows how, in a match that was fixed with Guarani," he said. "They are at the root of the trouble and do not have reasons to complain." Miranda is frequently involved in this sort of slanging match, yet was recently described by Teixeira as "the best football director in the country." Poor Brazil.

The directors of the federations also do their bit to ruin Brazilian football mainly through their refusal to allow the country to have a genuine national championship played on a league basis over eight or nine months.

It is a popular belief that Brazilian players continue to go abroad because of the country's economic crisis, which prevents the clubs from paying them decent wages. The economy, however, is not the only reason the clubs are poor.

Because Brazil continues to insist on holding ridiculous competitions with complicated rules, even the biggest clubs play most of their games in front of less than 10,000 people. If the country ran well-organised competitions with good football, the attendances would undoubtedly go up, the clubs would have more money and the players would get higher wages.

Many people believe that a genuine national championship (the current version bears more resemblance to a cup competition) is the answer.

"We have to go for a long Brazilian championship, decided on a points total with games only at the weekends," said Espinosa. But he realises that it will not be easy. "There is a lot of pressure ... politics, votes, etc. Everybody knows the right way of doing things but nobody takes the right way."

The problem is that the state federations jealously guard their own championships which drag on for half the year, usually with only one or two teams challenging for the title. The president of the Rio federation, Eduardo Vianna, actually wants to make his championship bigger by increasing the number of clubs from 12 to 20 – even though Rio has only four teams of first division standard. The provisional rules for the 1990 São Paulo championship, meanwhile, are so complicated that they simply defy belief.

Teixeira himself seems to be little more than a puppet of the state federations.

Left: Zico – disciplined. Right: Mirandinha was the victim of a vicious kick in the face from Barci.

WHAT'S BEHI

Iron Curtain collapse could add t

BY
IAIN MACLEOD

AFTER 44 years of mind-numbing oppression Eastern Europe, with the predictable exceptions of Stalinist Rumania and Albania, has finally emerged from the Dark Ages. The Berlin Wall is crumbling and the electrified iron mesh which has enforced the post-war division of the old world is no more.

But as democracy breaks out in the capitals of the Warsaw Pact, the implications for world sport are profound. State-sponsored sport seems certain to become a relic of the Cold War; professionalism is in vogue as the need for hard currency becomes more desperate than ever.

For the football clubs of western Europe, the democratisation of Eastern Europe could have serious effects at a time when the game has still to come to terms with 1992, when the European Economic Community (EEC) will open the frontiers of the 12 member states to offer freedom of movement to people in all walks of life.

The disintegration of the Berlin Wall ensures that the guidelines for 1992 may have to be revised. At present only West Germany is likely to benefit directly from the *rapprochement* with the east; Bonn's constitution regards the two German states as one nation and would not regard East German players as "foreigners".

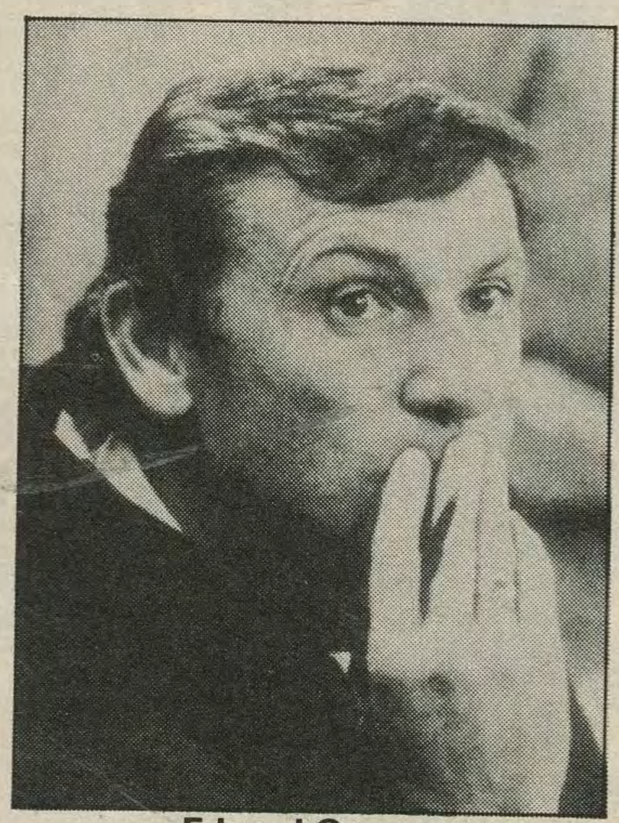
UEFA may have other thoughts on that matter but, the problem for most western nations relates to the maximum of two non-EEC players which most federations enforce. And, for Eastern Bloc players, as well as those from EFTA countries like Norway and Sweden there is the additional problem of obtaining work permits.

Expansion

The demise of communism is likely to lead to a radical revision of existing military and commercial blocs. It might not happen this year or next but, in the period between now and the end of the century, old alliances will disintegrate to be replaced by treaties unthinkable even six months ago.

The most problematic aspect would seem to centre on the inevitable expansion of the EEC. There is, for example, no guarantee that Hungary and Poland, where the Communist Party has seceded its monopoly on power, will continue to remain in the Warsaw Pact alliance. Economic stability is now the overriding goal.

In Budapest and Warsaw, thoughts are already turning to economic links with the EEC. And, while it is unlikely that Eastern Bloc nations could expect full membership of the community by the year 2000, there is little doubt that many will seek associate membership



Eduard Geyer.

and all the benefits that would entail.

Therein lies the problem. At present, the number of Eastern European footballers coming to the west has been more of a trickle than an exodus. Those who come tend to be of quite a high standard, if only because of the difficulties, notably obtaining a work permit, which all clubs encounter when employing those who do not have the burgundy passport of an EEC country.

For many top clubs who might already employ one non-EEC player, it is only prudent to give serious consideration to employing another. Previously, Eastern Bloc nations were careful to prevent the cream of their talent from moving abroad while they were still at their peak. So, an age restriction, usually not less than 28, and frequently 30, was a major stumbling block for potential buyers from the west. That, in some cases has already changed.

Simple economics dictate the need for further reform. Professionalism, outlawed behind the Iron Curtain since 1945, and vigourously denounced by all communist sports authorities now finds favour in virtually all corners of the disintegrating Soviet empire.

The reason is simple: with most Eastern Bloc economies in a pitiful state, the emphasis once placed on sporting success at international level will take a back seat to the more pressing need to somehow try and adapt to the prospect of a market economy.

Free enterprise is being widely touted. So, some nations like the Soviet Union have said that the across-the-board state subsidies which have been the cornerstone of socialist sport will gradually be phased out. In other words clubs will have to become self-supporting if they are to survive into the 21st century.

To do so will mean selling their finest talent to the highest bidder in the west. But, while that might provide much of the financing required to keep a club in business, the effect on the domestic scene could be traumatic.

Gheorghe Hagi.

Sergei Aleinikov.

The effect has already been witnessed. Dynamo Kiev, the pride of the Supreme Soviet league have seen their fortunes decline since selling players abroad in order to assist the difficult financial transition from state-sponsored club to being the Soviet Union's second professional club.

Until now, the effect throughout Eastern Europe has been limited. The age restriction on players' transfers ensured that nations like Poland and Hungary, by and large got the best years from a footballer before he moved to the west.

Bastion

Now, a combination of circumstances could alter all that. For there is little doubt that if wealthy clubs like Milan, PSV Eindhoven and Barcelona are to pay million dollar fees for players, then they will want to sign them when they are at their peak. The lower-age limit of, say, 28 may be an excellent means of preventing a drain of talent to the west, but aging individuals are unlikely to pay for the professionalism, which, like democracy, seems certain to spout forth throughout the last bastion of amateur sport.

For professional football in the west, the dangers emanating from the crumbling of the Berlin Wall seem likely to be compounded by the freedom of movement proposed by the EEC. Moreover, there is the small matter of the ludicrous resolution passed by the European Parliament which called for the abolition of all transfer fees.

Provided that the numbers coming through from Eastern Europe remain on the low side the effect should be minimal on both sides. However, the possibility exists that, with money available in the west, a large number of below-average footballers might be tempted to swap obscurity in the east for a similar, better paid role across the Wall.

The non-amateur status of Eastern Bloc players ensures that clubs can demand transfer fees whenever they move. A glut of poor players will, of course, be of little concern to the top clubs whose priority will always be to concentrate on the elite of each nation.

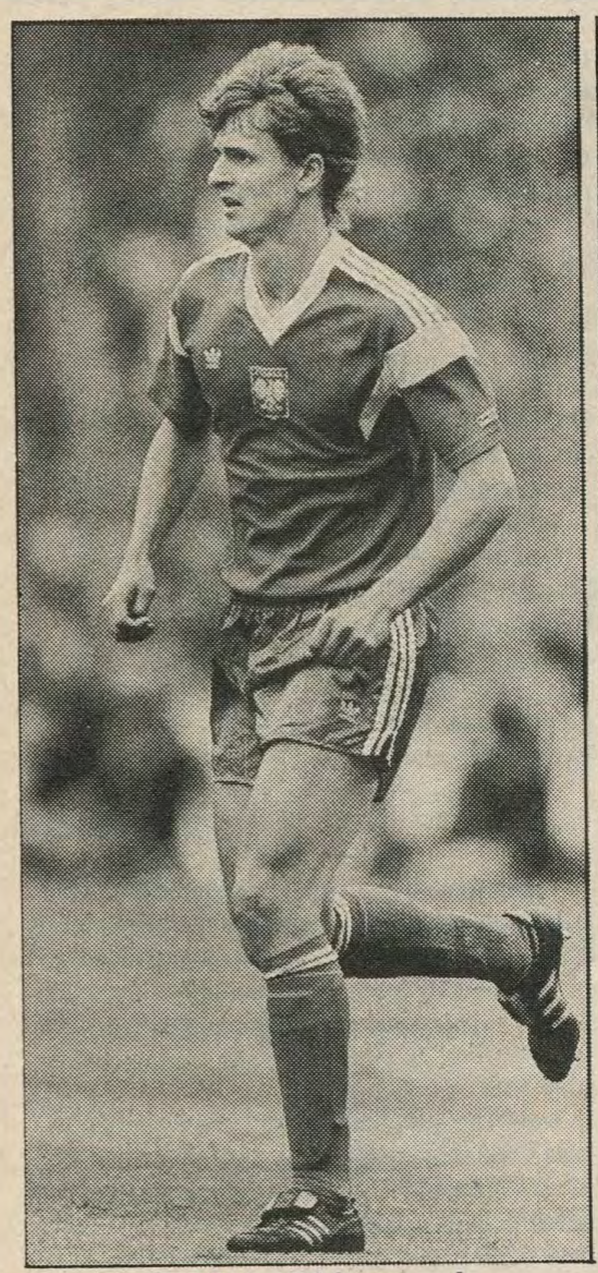
It is worth remembering the state into which Belgian football degenerated in the late 1960s and early 1970s, primarily because clubs were able to pick up cheaply, below-average foreign imports from Scandinavia and Africa, curtailing standards at domestic level.

There seems little doubt that many small western European clubs would fail to be tempted by the prospect of having some relatively cheap foreign talent if, for no other reason than to add a bit of sparkle to a dreary existence.

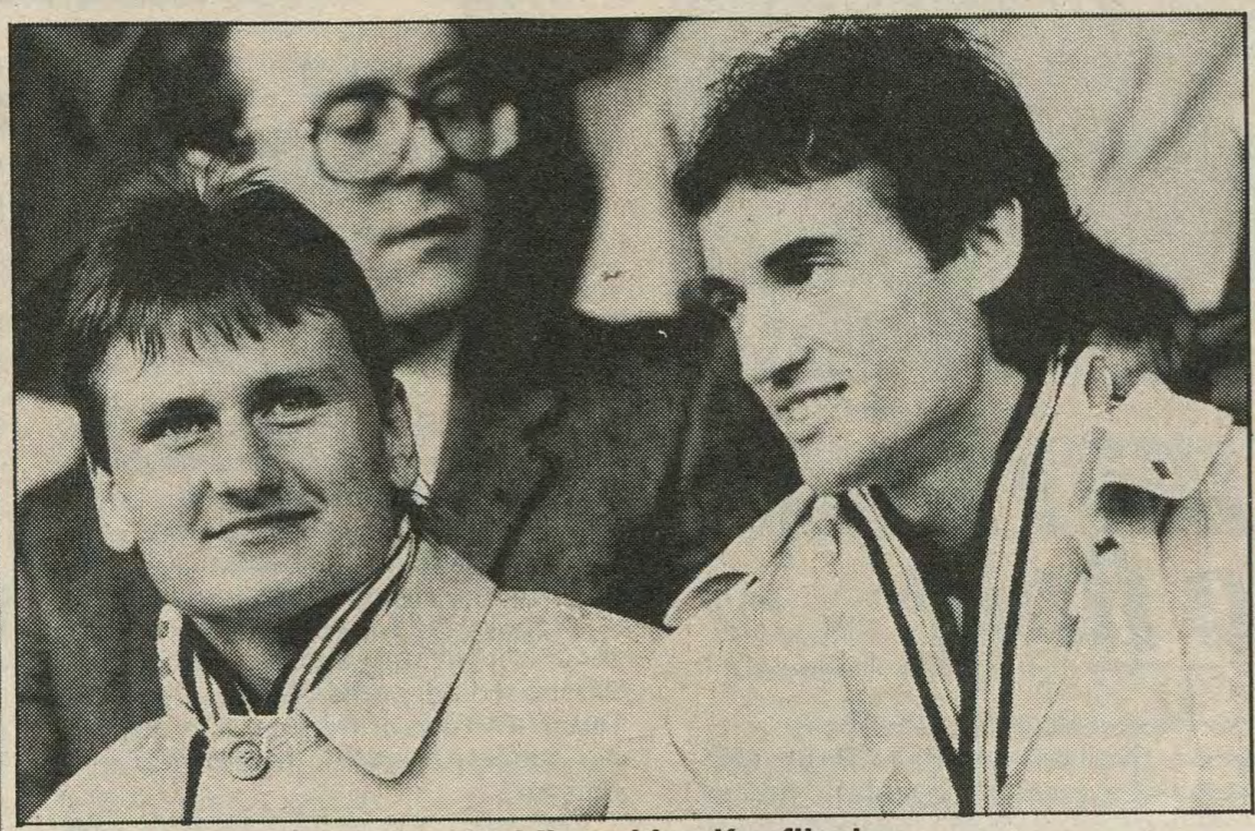
Associate membership of the EEC could give a Hungarian, for example fewer administrative problems than exist at present. It may also alter his status in the eyes of the football authorities, and provide the buying club which, by 1992 should in theory be able to play any number of EEC

ND THE WALL?

Europe's Common Market chaos



Dariusz Wdowczyk.



Lubos Kubik and Ivo Knoflicek.

nationals, with a further loophole by which to strengthen the squad without breaching existing federation regulations.

UEFA'S concern that the EEC's freedom of movement dictum will cause irrepairable damage to football is not without justification; the rapid pace of change behind the Iron Curtain can only add to the fear that an excess of cheap talent will hasten the demise of the domestic game in many countries.

Constant movement of players will probably undermine the efforts of many national team managers. Already, the loss of status for the Olympic football tournament seems imminent, though the fact that Eastern Europe will have to differentiate between the national team and the Olympic team should ensure a more balanced competitive structure.

So, the fear of multi-national club teams draws closer to reality. The stalemate between UEFA and the EEC over the former's insistence that a limit has to be enforced on the number of non-national players a club may field in European club competition shows no sign of being resolved, and could end in a judicial confrontation which could have serious consequences for offending clubs. The prospect of a mass migration from Eastern Europe can only exacerbate an already difficult situation.

And what of the future for Eastern European football?

Cutbacks will be made in security and defence, ironically two critical areas in the rise and fall of Eastern European sport. Enormous sums of money were pumped into state services – now, the redistribution of resources will end the four-decade monopoly on the state's precious funds of hard currency.

The effects of perestroika will vary from country to country, indeed, in Rumania and Albania nothing has changed, while in Yugoslavia, ethnic tensions have reached such a pitch that the very future of the six republics which make up the nation is in serious jeopardy. So, where will it all end for the seven Warsaw Pact and two non-aligned communist nations?

● **EAST GERMANY**: The collapse of the Wall has opened out possibilities which were unthinkable even three months ago. Defection was the biggest fear of the sports authorities. It prompted a re-think some time back and led to footballers being declared non-amateurs. The purpose of this was to ensure that foreign clubs would be forced to pay transfer fees for East German players.

Nothing will be the same again now that the communist party has lost its fearsome powerbase. Klaus Eichler, the president of the national sports federation (DTSB), has acknowledged that leading sportsmen might become available for transfer abroad – at a price, of course.

An extraordinary metamorphosis is about to take place. Eichler, known as a reformer, is likely to instigate fully-fledged professionalism, but warned that the nation's elite would not be sold abroad. A lower-age limit of 28 is likely to be proposed. Clubs will be permitted to engage western sponsors to boost funds; shirt sponsorship is inevitable and working contracts will be introduced for the first time.

Eduard Geyer, who doubles up as coach of champions Dynamo Dresden and the national team, believes that football is certain to revert to professionalism. And, with sport likely to de-centralised, football is probably going to have to fend for itself. One thing is certain: the corrupting influence of the all-powerful Party secretary in each town has been ended.

"We have no alternative but to introduce professionalism because we cannot afford to cut ourselves off from the world of international football," Geyer emphasised.

Christoph Daum, the Köln manager, said: "I am certain the chase for East German players is about to be launched." He believed that as many as 30 East Germans could be playing in the Bundesliga next season. If so, the contrast in wages will be enormous: the basic monthly wage of Dynamo Dresden players is reputedly 1,400 Ostmarks (£45), though win bonuses of 750 Ostmarks and 500 Ostmarks are awarded for home and away wins respectively.

Daum acknowledged the need for East Germans to have a higher standard of regular football. There are some fine youngsters: Sammer, Kirsten, Doller and Thom, to name but four. "East Germany itself wants to encourage its players to seek transfers because they have suffered from years of being cut off from what is going on in the West."

One pleasing aspect of the new relationship with the West is the resurgence in interest, predominantly from East Berlin, in the fortunes of the once-great Hertha Berlin, champions of Germany in 1930 and 1931, and now pushing for promotion to the Bundesliga. Attendances will rise considerably. Also in Berlin, on April 24, the second international match between the two Germanies will take place.

● **ALBANIA**: In stark contrast to the momentous events which are changing the political face of Eastern Europe, Stalinist Albania, despite some cautious approaches to the West in recent years, remains locked in a time-warp. Any kind of reform seems remote, and the nation's isolationist policy has done nothing to enhance the prospects of sporting success.

Conditions remain primitive. Reports suggest that there is a grave shortage of decent equipment and that players have difficulty in finding boots that fit. There have been a number of talented Albanian players but as no cash rewards are given the incentive to do well is diminished. The players are said to be better off than the average citizen but, in time-honoured communist fashion, only clubs supported by the Party, security services and the army have any chance to progress. Political ideology still governs the failure to fulfil fixtures against Soviet sides, and there is little likelihood of change in the foreseeable future.

● **BULGARIA**: Todor Zhivkov's 35-year reign (now ended) stifled many areas of Bulgarian sport. Football has been in the doldrums for many years now, and, with the odd exception, only players who were 28 or over have been allowed to move abroad. Corruption has been an unpalatable feature of the Bulgarian game in recent years. Exporting players was a complex business but with a new regime now in power, greater openness should make matters simpler.

If foreign clubs were prepared to offer excessive fees for somewhat ordinary players the age limit became a matter of expediency. Goalkeeper Borislav Mihailov, was allowed to go to Portuguese club Belenenses for a fee believed to be in excess of $500,000. The attractions of life in the west are evident: he was offered a four-room flat, a Rover car and the opportunity to earn in three years what he would barely have managed in ten years at home. More Bulgarians are likely to follow him.

● **POLAND**: Very much a case of how the mighty are fallen. The country might now have its first post-war non-communist Prime Minister, but the economy, and the state of the game, are in an appalling condition. Foreign aid is pouring in and, with hard currency in such desperate demand, selling the nation's leading players abroad is of more importance than trying to resurrect the ailing game at home.

Shortages, particularly of the consumer variety, ensure that most Polish players will jump at the opportunity to move abroad. Success at home is worthless, hence the reason why, for example, two Poles, Dariusz Dziekanowski and Dariusz Wdowczyk, left Legia Warsaw to join Celtic. The respective transfer fees, £540,000 and £400,000, illustrate the dilemma which confronts most Eastern European federations.

● **HUNGARY**: Once the most celebrated name in world football, the decline of Hungarian football has been one of the saddest aspects of recent years. The future appears to be fraught with difficulty. Hungary, which has turned its back on socialist virtues offers the most authentic glimpse of what the next decade has in store.

The state-run sports organisation are in the throes of being disbanded, and Hungary's National Olympic

CONTINUED OVER

Libregts has lost the backing of his players

LIBREGTS THREAT

Dutch boss may face fight to go to Italy

By IAIN MACLEOD

THIJS LIBREGTS is in the rare and unenviable position of being the successful football manager who has lost the backing of his players. Holland's qualification for next year's World Cup finals in Italy, led to euphoric scenes in Rotterdam; behind the scenes, however, the party was less amicable.

The 3-0 defeat of Finland which secured the Dutch ticket as winners of group four, may have installed the European champions as the old world favourites to lift the trophy, but the matter of who will lead them in Italy appears to be less certain.

Player-power, a feature of the Dutch game during the glory, glory days of the 1970s is again in evidence. The nation's tradition of being faithful to the people's vision of the beautiful game has become an onerous burden for Rinus Michels's successor.

The defeat of Finland emphasised the different facets of the Dutch game. Even without Ruud Gullit, still recovering from a knee injury, Holland exude a tactical sophistication, not to mention a mental and physical steeliness which augers well for next year.

Patience was a virtue which did not turn into panic after a goalless first-half when numerous chances were squandered. "All the players were very scared after forty five minutes", said defender Adrie van Tiggelen.

Erwin Koeman emphasised that the important thing "was not to get a goal against." So, victory was achieved, first by patient probing of what was frequently an eight-man defence, then, following the vital breakthrough by more customary flamboyant play as the Dutch visibly relaxed in the last half an hour with the game secure.

For Libregts, winning a group that also contained West Germany was a matter of considerable satisfaction. But, in spite of the fact that he has lost only one of the 12 matches Holland have played since becoming European champions, Libregts finds himself in an increasingly beleagured position.

Libregts has little popular domestic support and, more significantly, has apparently lost the backing of virtually the entire playing squad. Gullit, despite his inactivity, is among his most vociferous critics.

Michels, the former coach who led the team to European success in1988, illustrated why when he described the Dutch attitude of the last 18 months as "success football – playing for points."

Well that, of course, is the universal language nowadays. Even Libregts acknowledged as much. He is more of a pragmatist than the Dutch might wish. "First we have to score, then Holland will play football", was his pre-match summation. An accurate one, as it transpired.

But for a nation whose footballers have in the past given rise to the illusion that they have been blessed by angels, reality can sometimes be clouded by the need to win in style, whatever the consequences that might emanate from a cavalier attitude.

Even under Michels, the Dutch were deceptively well disciplined. Nonetheless, in the build-up to the match, rumours persisted that an overseer, alongside Libregts, would have to be appointed in order to placate the players.

Michels, Johan Cruyff, and the coaches of Anderlecht and Ajax, Aad de Mos and Leo Beenhakker respectively, were mentioned as possible incumbents. De Mos, in fact, perhaps flushed by his success in Brussels had put himself forward as a candidate.

Michels, however, was the popular favourite. Now on the board of the Dutch FA, with special responsibility for technical matters, Michels soon denied that he would do anything to undermine Libregts' authority. "I will support him as a member of the board – nothing else," he emphasised.

But it is well known that Michels has previously worked well with Beenhakker – during the qualifying campaign for the 1986 World Cup final – and Dutch sources believe that the partnership could be renewed to great effect.

Dismayed

Libregts, however, stressed that he will not work with an overseer given that if it was Michels there would be no question as to which of the two of them would have the greater say, and refuses to be dismayed by the clamour for his head.

Injuries have ensured that Libregts has had difficulty in maintaining any kind of continuity throughout the qualifying campaign, though this has not entirely defused criticism of the fact that he has used 24 players in the six matches.

So, while some of the performances have been less than impressive, the statistics and the prospect of the Netherlands reaping a £3 million bonanza in Italy certainly are. "I will work on the results", Libregts said. "They are the answer to anything the critics say."

WHAT'S BEHIND THE WALL?

Committee has been told by the government that it has to seek private sponsorship to enable it to participate at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

The domestic game has been riddled with corruption in recent years. A form of semi-professionalism was introduced 20 years ago but the game fell between two stools: the players got lazy and poured scorn on the system, while the clubs struggled to meet increasing costs as interest waned.

The legendary former coach, Emil Osterreicher, warned recently that the full professional status now practiced would take at least 10 years to provide any salvation for an ailing game. The future, like the present, looks bleak. The best players will continue to go abroad.

● **YUGOSLAVIA:** The greatest exporter of football talent in the world. Under Tito, Yugoslavia practised its own form of communism and left the Warsaw Pact to avoid the shackles of the Brehznev era. So, for 30 years, the Yugoslavs have tried to capitalise on a flood of natural talent. The Gorbachov-type reform will have little effect on Yugoslav sport – it is estimated that some 400 footballers at present ply their trade on foreign fields.

The vast majority, of course, for backwater continental teams. But domestic unrest and increasing liberalisation might yet fragment the already fragile nature of a greatly divided society. The Yugoslavs, like the Poles, are master traders and many will use the platform of the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, to impress the plethora of foreign coaches in attendance.

● **CZECHOSLOVAKIA.** With the exception of the odd defector, the Czechs rarely allowed their leading players to go abroad. But the fall of the old post-1968 hard-line regime should bring about belated change. Czech football has been encased in fear and defectors, so much so that Lubos Kubik and Ivo Knoflicek discovered that even when they had flown the coop, and gone into hiding in a remote Spanish fishing village, there was no assurance of how far the tentacles of the secret police reached.

The advent of some form of professionalism should provide more freedom for Czech footballers who wish to work abroad. Hard currency remains the most desired commodity and that is unlikely to alter even in the event of power-sharing or a wholly democratic government. Restructuring will require money, though given that Czechoslovakia has few problems with foreign debt repayments – a rarity east of the Wall – they might be more reticent in joining the export boom. The players, though, may have other ideas and, will use the World Cup finals to showcase their talents.

● **RUMANIA:** Still the maverick of the Warsaw Pact. No visible signs of change and, with the recent Party congress having given the despotic president, Nicolae Ceausescu, another five years in office, and dissident opposition ruthlessly crushed by the secret police, Rumania will remain in the Dark Ages for the foreseeable future.

That will be good news for the national team and for Steaua Bucharest too, given the number of players they provide for the former. The level of football is high but only because Steaua is the club of the Rumanian army and as such enjoy all the privileges the state can offer. The Ministry of Defence provides the funding for a well-run, multi-sport organisation which boasts 24 sports sections.

Bucharest is now confronted with more hardship than any other capital city in Europe, principally because of Ceausescu's insane desire to pay off the nation's foreign debt. Hard currency is in more demand here than anywhere else but, thus far, Rumania's best talent is forced to stay at home. This includes the gifted Gheorghe Hagi, the so-called "Maradona of the Carpathians", much cherished by at least half a dozen Italian clubs.

Hagi, of course, leads an extremely privileged life – his gleaming Mercedes 2.3 is testimony to that. Steaua, it seems, do nothing without consulting one of Ceausescu's brothers, and Hagi will not leave for Italy or anywhere else without the

UNDER ALREADY

Holland are by no means at their best but, a patient approach is clearly what will be called for in the heat of Italy's high summer. Whether Libregts survives until then might not wholly depend on the Dutch FA, whose backing he has at lest for the time being.

Matters came to a head on May 31, when the Netherlands, courtesy of an astonishing goal three minutes from the end by Gullit, scraped through against Finland in Helsinki. The players criticised Libregts tactics as being overly negative.

The players had a closed meeting, but collectively agreed not to rock the boat until qualification was assured. Nonetheless, their dissatisfaction was evident, even if there was some tactical disagreements among the players as well: Ronald Koeman, for example, agreed with Libregts that Rijkaard, who preferred midfield, was more valuable at the back.

What is intriguing in an era when results are deemed to be of supreme importance, the Dutch players, aware of the nation's reputation, perhaps even a moral responsibility, for entertaining football, felt that The Netherlands had lost its way.

"We played very defensively", Gullit pointedly remarked in Helsinki. "It is not befiting of the European champions to play in this way."

Gullit, incidentally, is barely on speaking terms with Libregts. This stems from some provocative remarks, which might or might not have been intended as such, along the lines of, "he's a good player, but, like most blacks, is lazy", made by Libregts about Gullit during their time together at Feyenoord some years back.

Libregts's relief that Holland had qualified was tempered by the criticism which even in victory refused to go away. He stood his ground, though, and again made reference to a fine string of results. "We made good results and qualified in first place in a very tough group," he said.

The players by and large had little to say on the matter. Only van Tiggelen, seemed to be of the opinion that Libregts should stay. He, too, pointed to the results and said that, "you can't say anything against him any more."

Ronald Koeman, the captain in Gullit's continuing absence, seemed to have had a change of heart from Helsinki, and disagreed – "We will have to talk about it within a few days."

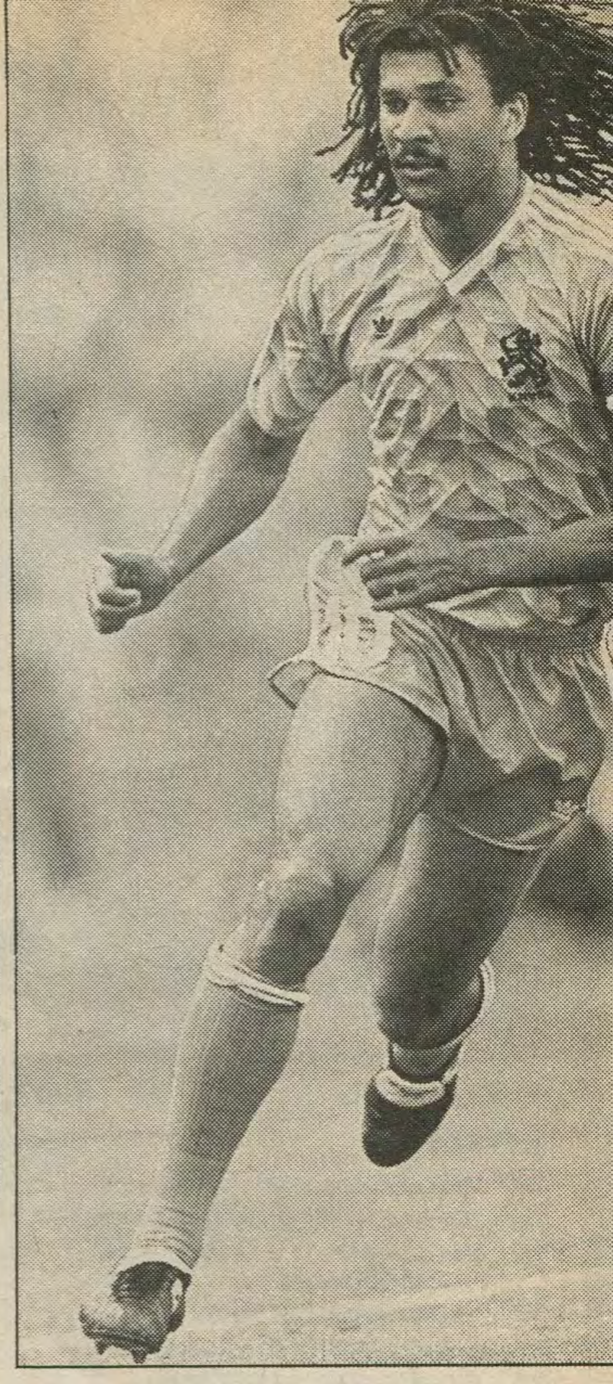
Shortly after midnight, as I emerged into the chill, night air, the general consensus among Dutch journalists was that it was still doubtful whether Libregts would lead the team in Italy.

Denial

A week later, following a meeting of the board of the Dutch FA, there was an emphatic denial that the players had made representation to have Libregts removed. If there had been a players' revolt it had been quelled in bloodless fashion.

Michels, who must be tempted to make amends for 1974, said the board had no doubts about Libregts ability – "He has earned the right to be in Italy."

That might be so, but it had never been suggested anyway that Libregts should not go – only that another coach be appointed to go with him. "Despite pressure for a change we are certain Libregts is the right man for the job", Michels added.



Above: Erwin Koeman – "vital we didn't concede a goal against Finland." Right: Gullit – critical of the manager.

It is unlikely, however, that the matter will end there.

Holland are probably the European favourites to lift the World Cup, always assuming that Gullit, who remains the biggest obstacle to Libregts' status, is fully fit to play his part. His fitness continues to give cause for concern.

Gullit, the most complete player in the world, has not played since the Finland match on May 31. Reports that his career was finished have been greatly exaggerated, though Milan, fearful that he might have a prolonged stay on the sidelines, briefly contemplated severing this year's contract to enable them to sign, temporarily, a non-Italian replacement.

That notion was scrapped when doctors assured Milan that Gullit would be fit by the end of the year. The forecast was premature and optimistic, and completely at odds with the diagnosis made by the Belgian specialist, Dr. Marc Martens.

The opinions of most Italian doctors varied – one said that Gullit was finished, another that his return to action was imminent.

What Martens did was to look inside the knee; once the examination was over, his conclusion was that specks of bone which had flaked off were the cause of the problem. He advised the Dutchman to let nature take its course; time was the only healer. It was sound counsel.

Ever since the damage was done during a pre-season training session shortly after his record £5.7 million transfer from PSV Eindhoven in the summer of 1987, Gullit's problems have intensified because of the demands for his services.

He survived his first season in Italy relatively intact, but, on August 3, 1988, in a friendly against Parma, he again inflamed the tendon. He missed most of the first-half of the league campaign and returned only briefly for a European Cup match against Red Star Belgrade, where he further aggravated the injury.

Gullit then played against Cesena on the Sunday prior to Milan's European Cup quarter-final, second leg v. Real Madrid last April; after a fine game in a 5-0 triumph, he exacerbated the problem.

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presidential seal of approval. Rumania's secret police is among the worst even in Eastern Europe, and there is no doubt that Rumania, fearful of mass defections, will be the most closely guarded of all the teams at next year's World Cup finals.

Sponsorship has penetrated the nation's borders – Steaua's shirts bear the name of Ford. But that is more of a practical requirement than bowing to capitalist ideology, and until Ceausescu is deposed, the best Rumanian players will continue to ply their trade for the greater glory of the state.

● **SOVIET UNION**: Where the reforms all began. The once-great taboo of Soviet sport, professionalism, is now being embraced in many aspects of sporting life. Soviet football is gradually now moving towards professionalism, and any manner or means is being exploited to finance the transition. Dnepr, a first division club from the Ukraine, began the experiment and then the world-famous Dynamo Kiev soon followed suit. That effectively meant that both clubs forfeited state subsidies and had to become self-supporting through gate receipts and sponsorship.

Players earn their money more openly than before, some up to 600 roubles a month – an enormous salary by Soviet standards. So, the previously prevailing influence of the army, security services and industrialised institutions will be phased out. This will force the major clubs to fend for themselves and perhaps lead to a greater distribution of talent.

Most affected will be the likes of TSKA Moscow, the army club, and the Dynamo clubs of Kiev, Moscow and Tbilisi – the former have already moved into the private sector. Kiev recently signed a major sponsorship deal worth 500 million lire ($385,000) with the Italian textile company, Fisac. But for the other Dynamo clubs the advantages offered by the patronage of the secret police is coming to an end.

Founded in 1923, Dynamo flourished primarily because the police chief, the notorious Lavrenti Beria ensured that they had the best of everything. As the secret police became the most feared instrument of the state, so Dynamo maintained their enviable status. Now, perestroika will dismantle much of the structure which made the Soviet Union one of the world's sporting superpowers.

The Soviets have realised that in order to gain sufficient funding for sport in the Gorbachov era, it is not enough to sell aged players who are past their prime. There is still considerable resistance to selling off the cream but, Sergei Aleinikov, for example, who moved from Dynamo Minsk to Juventus last summer left the Soviet economy $2.8 million better off.

So, Soviet football has increasingly been given over to accountants, who will examine, given the limited resources of some clubs in a free market, what is possible, and what is not. Whatever else, the era of the full-time footballer who also was a professional soldier, policeman etc has come to an end.

The momentous events in Eastern Europe in the last year or so have been an historic triumph for the will of the people. What has occurred would appear to be irreversible. The effects are profound and will rub off on many aspects of sport, not only in the east but in the west as well.

The fear in the west must be that small clubs unable to afford a better class of footballer will buy low-priced, below-average players, and subsequently neglect any emphasis previously placed on rearing young players.

If the EEC do capitulate to the demands of the European Parliament and ban transfer fees, the incentives for small clubs, who sell talented young players for moderate to huge sums, will disappear. Will cheap Eastern European imports fill the gap caused by the possible lack of emerging talent?

One Yugoslav commentator who has been watching the drain of that nation's talent for over 20 years, remarked that: "Quite a few of them play for first division European clubs."

But, he added: "The others have joined backwater teams on the continent and in nearby island states. They fetch only small transfer fees because of the low prestige which most of our clubs enjoy abroad."

An accurate summation, perhaps of the position in all Eastern Bloc countries; and a worrying thought for the future well being of professional football in Western Europe.

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BAYER FIND THE RIGHT CHEMISTRY

Above: Leverkusen beat Bayern Munich at the Olympic Stadium. Below: The experienced Thomas Hörster

THREE YEARS after they had last climbed to the top of the Bundesliga, the works team of Bayer Leverkusen have again stormed to the summit.

In November 1986 they had beaten mighty Bayern in Munich by 3-0 to become leaders and recently they repeated the feat by 1-0 to overtake the record champions.

When the half-way stage in the Bundesliga was reached on November 18, Bayer shared the top place with Bayern and Köln.

Not so long ago Borussia Mönchengladbach's eloquent pro Ewald Lienen said "The Bayer chemical works are destroying the environment – their team ruins the football."

One can of course argue about the validity of the first statement, but no longer about the second. Since the 36-year-old Jürgen Gelsdorf took over the managerial position last April from Dutchman Rinus Michels, things began to move steadily upwards with Bayer Leverkusen.

At first Gelsdorf was content to consolidate the club's position in the Bundesliga – they finished eighth last season. But since the start to this term he has pulled the reins tighter. He says: "One can discuss and argue with me about everything, except two matters – commitment and discipline. If my players demonstrate these virtues, than I can overlook some inferior performances, because not every footballer can sustain top form over 34 league games."

The former 11-times capped striker Herbert Waas didn't believe his manager was serious and so after repeated clashes of personality he was loaned to Italy's Bologna.

Gelsdorf was himself a dedicated professional with Leverkusen between 1976 and 1986 having played in 189 Bundesliga games since promotion in 1979. Later he became youth coach, then assistant to Michels and since spring alone in charge. Following the "Waas affair" no one has dared to challenge his authority.

The experienced Thomas Hörster, with the club since 1977 and during Gelsdorf's active spell, his room mate, re-affirms: "Jürgen is constant and ambitious. I always knew he would make it as a manager."

But he couldn't have known how successfully. When the so-called "player council", consisting of four senior pros, discussed with the management in pre-season the bonuses, they were thinking in terms of a 10th place – at best eighth in the table. The board were also calculating on similar lines. Now the players earn, providing the team is placed among the first three, £880 per point whilst for beating Bayern club president Gert-Achim Fischer generously paid them an extra bonus.

Money is a touchy subject in Leverkusen. Until recently their pros have been derisively called the "works players", or the "pill-footballers" (Bayer produce aspirins) and even "millionaires". But their business manager Reiner Calmund says angrily: "The team which beat Bayern Munich has a transfer value of £3 million. The Bayern side is much, much dearer. We've sold players for under £4 million, among them Rolff, Tita, Kastl, Faulkenmayer and Hausmann. For the Brazilian Jorginho, for Kree and Demandt we have expended just £1.3 million."

Sponsor

Hörster claims he doesn't get upset any more over the poor image of the club: "Everybody in Germany is demanding the support of industry in order to keep the top stars in the country. When Bayern Munich sign up a new sponsor then it is hailed as an example to all. We have got a big combine that supports us – but all we earn is sarcastic comments."

Manager Gelsdorf knows how the poor image of the 1988 UEFA – Cup winners can be improved: "If we play good football and are successful over a long period of time."

Hörster insists that Bayer were already on the right tracks under Erich Ribbeck, who re-placed "professor" Dettmar Cramer, but the engagement of Michels destroyed all the good ground work. He says: "Our players were handed instructions by the assistant manager and when we wanted to talk to Michels, then we were directed to see the general manager Michael Meier."

Thus the playing staff became withdrawn and tried to play safety first football to secure their own

position. Now everything is different, Gelsdorf has re-activated a new team spirit. "Everybody is helping everyone else," explains goalkeeper Rüdiger Vollborn and Bayer's record of only one defeat in 18 games is proof of that.

Hörster adds: "We arrange get-togethers and now feel we know each other better. Those who can't stand one another privately, won't become close on the football pitch. Friendship within a team is not just a cliché, with us it is a fact."

The fans meanwhile can hardly believe their eyes. the erstwhile "robots", who appeared to calculate every step they took whether it was worth it financially, have turned into an outfit with a heart of soul.

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Why Dunga is programmed for success

BY NICK BIDWELL

"HE is an excellent player," said Sylvester Takac, coach of French club Sochaux when asked about a key UEFA Cup opponent. "He plays simply but with the precision of a computer, and is always there in support of a colleague."

The subject of Takac's admiration was Fiorentina schemer, Carlos Dunga, the midfield lynchpin of Brazil manager Sebastiao Lazaroni's grand design to recapture the World Cup after a twenty year gap.

Although no spectacular midfielder in the classical Brazilian mould, the 26-year-old Dunga's calm and assured play in the engine room has been a major influence in his country's World Cup qualification and the triumphant South American championship campaign – Brazil's first victory in the competition since 1949.

Not possessed with the tendency to indulge in gratuitous trickery on the field, admirers of past masters such as Pele, Gerson, Rivelino and Zico might find his more European style lacking in panache. But national chief considers Dunga as a highly effective team player, indispensable within the framework of a more disciplined and tactically-aware Brazil.

The recent Brazilian friendly victory over Italy in Bologna showed just why Lazaroni had placed his faith in him. Together with Alemao and Silas, Dunga contributed his combative and technical instincts to Brazil's midfield supremacy over the much-vaunted Italian trio of Giannini, De Napoli and Berti.

In a deep position, stationed in front of his defence, the 15-times capped Dunga worked tirelessly to stifle any Italian offensives, and invariably was the originator of the Brazilian counter attacks. Impressive in his role of director of operations, the Fiorentina man gave substantial evidence of vision, quick-thinking and the estimable quality of rarely wasting a ball, the fundamental ingredient of the Brazilian passing game.

Yet while enjoying success on the international stage, the Brazilian is currently less inclined to be content with life with Fiorentina. During the

ANZIANI BANNED IN FRENCH CRACKDOWN

BY NICK BIDWELL

FRENCH soccer, still reeling from the national side's World Cup elimination, suffered another shock with a drug-taking scandal.

Former international striker Philippe Anziani of Toulon received the dubious distinction of becoming the first French League player to fail a dope test after laboratory analysis revealed traces of a forbidden substance in a urine sample provided following an autumn championship match.

After the initial positive test result and its confirmation by a second analysis, in late November Anziani appeared before a special session of the disciplinary committee of the French federation. The verdict, in line with the FFF's guidelines for a first drugs offence, was a one month ban for the 28-year-old.

Anziani and his club protested – in vain – that he had been the victim of circumstance. On leaving the hearing the bemused player at the centre of the controversy declared himself to be innocent of using drugs to enhance his performance.

"I was tested on September 30 at the end of the Metz-Toulon game," he said. "When I heard the result, I remembered that about ten days before that match I went to visit some friends, who gave me two tablets when I complained of back pains. At the time I was unaware whether it was asprin or another product."

In fact Anziani had taken a drug called 'Di-Antalvic', a medicament prescribed to relieve toothaches or headaches, and containing the substance, dextropropoxyphene, which since June 1989 has been on the International Olympic Committee's list of banned drugs, a list approved by FIFA and UEFA.

The ban met with an outraged reaction from Toulon manager, Rolland Courbis, who offered unequivocal support to the player he signed from Racing Paris during the close season. He said: "Anziani is not a cheat. It is a question of differentiating between a stimulant and a product taken to combat pain."

Adding a farcical note to the scandal is the fact that the drug in question is noted for causing drowsiness – hardly a narcotic to incite a higher standard of play. Courbis said: "If I had a member of my squad who took drugs, I would sack him immediately. But if he did so by taking pills which would make him sleepy, I would take him straight to an asylum."

Toulon's manager then threatened that if the club's appeal was not successful he would withdraw the team from the final three league games before the winter break.

The Anziani saga begs the question as to the extent to which players are aware of what medicines are on the prescribed list.

"When you feel unwell ten days before a match how does one know whether the product taken for it is prohibited or not? The doctors have the list, not the players," said Anziani.

FFF president, Jean Fournet-Fayard admitted that there existed a communication problem, but pointed out that the players' union were to intensify their campaign to inform their members on the drug issue.

A quiet, unassuming character, Anziani burst onto the scene in the 1979-80 season, helping his club Sochaux to the league runners-up spot and then a year later to a surprise semi-final berth in the UEFA Cup.

Consistently among the goals, he stayed with the Peugeot-backed club until 1984 when he made a lucrative move to Monaco.

In the principality he gained a French Cup winners medal in 1985, before transferring for spells with Nantes and Racing Paris.

He made his full international debut for France in a friendly defeat at the hands of Brazil in Paris in May 1981, and has five caps – the latest being in November 1987 versus Norway.

close season the Florentine club's board earned his acute displeasure by asking a reported £7.4 million for his transfer to Juventus, a demand designed to cool even the ardour of the Agnelli-Fiat purse.

After grudgingly returning to Tuscany from Brazil, Dunga made no attempt to conceal his bitterness toward club owner Count Pontello and president Lorenzo Righetti and subsequent Serie A performances have lacked his usual commitment and sparkle.

Fiorentina have dearly missed the Brazilian's tenacious approach and will-to-win and presently occupy a mid-table position hardly commensurate with the talents of Dunga, Roberto Baggio and the Czech Kubik. Whereas last term he was a conspicuous leader of the team, forever motivating and encouraging those around him, this season he has abdicated that role to the dismay of colleagues.

Italian starlet Baggio recently called for Dunga to resume the mantle of the team's leader. "Carlos must once again be our coach on the pitch," he said. "During the opening games of the season we have missed his direction and fighting spirit."

Encourage

Dunga replied in a Maradona-type pique that the matter of motivating the side was always down to him, adding that he was no longer disposed to encourage his team-mates. However he knows full well that it is not in his interest to continue such a feud in World Cup season and will have to wait until the summer before packing his bags.

He was born Carlo Caetano Bledorn Verri in the town of Ijui in the southernmost Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul on October 31 1963. A few years later a certain lack of height bestowed upon him the alias of Dunga, the Portuguese name of one of Snow White's seven dwarfs.

But a growing talent for football led to a state deputy recommending him to the giants of Internacional of Porto Alegre. In reality he did not require the wielding of political patronage to make his initial steps in Brazilian soccer. On the field the slightly-built youngster was transformed into a giant, playing with a self-confidence and verve which belied his tender years.

Thus at the age of 15 he left his native town on the border with Uruguay for the state capital of Porto Alegre. He had signed for the club of his undisputed idol, Paulo Roberto Falcao, who at that time was in the throes of leading Internacional to their third national championship in four years.

The young Dunga was a devoted disciple of the player known as the 'Divino', a star whose career he hoped to emulate.

Professional

"Apart from learning much from him on the technical side, I considered Falcao to be a great example of professionalism," Dunga says. "He was always the first to arrive at the training ground and the last to leave."

Two years after Dunga's arrival, Falcao transferred to Rome, where he was to conquer both the 'scudetto' for Nils Liedholm's side and the acclaim of Italian football lovers. Little did the young Brazilian know that some seven years on he would be making that same trans-Atlantic crossing to Italy.

In 1983 Dunga received his call-up for the Brazilian junior team which succeeded in clinching the South American crown, duly followed by an exciting victory in the World Junior Cup in Mexico.

On returning to Internacional and the Beira-Rio stadium, his first professional contract was awaiting his signature and club manager Dino Sani promptly offered him a permanent berth in the first team. Dunga repaid his manager's faith by playing a prominent role in the club's third consecutive 'gaucho' championship.

Above: Falcao – early influence. Right: Baggio – Fiorentina team-mate.

The next honour to come his way was a well-deserved silver medal at the 1984 Olympics, after Brazil were defeated in the final by France before a full house at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

September of that year saw the midfielder move to Corinthians of Sao Paulo in the wake of the departure of Socrates for Fiorentina. However, he struggled for consistency at a club tormented by internal squabbles and after just a year was loaned to Pele's former club of Santos. In the competitive 'paulista' championship Dunga rediscovered his form and was rewarded with the captaincy of a Brazilian XI which finished third in the soccer competition of the South American games in Chile.

Yet his travels were by no means at an end and Rio's Vasco da Gama was to be the next port of call for the Brazilian wanderer in January 1987. Outstanding club form caught the eye of then Brazil manager, Carlos Alberto da Silva, who gave Dunga his international debut in a 1-1 draw with England at Wembley in May 1987.

Fiorentina had been following his performances closely and were sufficiently impressed to make a firm bid for the Brazilian's services. Dunga jumped at the opportunity to depart from a footballing structure high on maladministration and low on economic remuneration.

However the problem was that Fiorentina already possessed their allotted quota of foreigners in the form of Glenn Hysen and Ramon Diaz, and so Dunga was farmed out to nearby Pisa.

In spite of the Pisans ultimately successful season-long struggle to avoid relegation, the Brazilian won rave reviews and continued in impressive vein last term when he returned to Florence. Dunga quickly became a firm crowd favourite as the Florentine club captured a UEFA Cup spot, his thoughtful and energetic play contributing much to the dual emergence of playmaker Roberto Baggio and striker Stefano Borgonovo – now at Milan.

Anziani goes close for France against Brazil.

Staggering success on the cards for Scotland ...

BY ALEX GORDON

OLYMPIC skills in imagination are required for anyone who believes Scotland will return from Italy with the World Cup trophy in the hand luggage.

It's a wonderful, praiseworthy effort for a nation of only five million to annex a place among the world's elite for the fifth successive occasion, but, let's be honest, Scotland staggered rather than swaggered into the summer soccer extravaganza.

There were moments of mesmerising mediocrity, astounding awfulness and stunning stupidity on the mine-laden route through Group Five. To be fair, Andy Roxburgh's men also puzzled, perplexed and pulverised on occasion, gaining an excellent 2-1 win against Norway in Oslo and flowing to a 2-0 triumph over France at Hampden in monsoon conditions.

But the last three games in the section are the ones that are burning brightest in the memory banks of all who witnessed them. In the summer Scotland with three games to play, were content in the knowledge that one solitary point was all that was required to whisk them off to Italy. But when winter rolled in the Scots were still searching vainly for that vital one-point passport.

Category

The opportunity was certainly there to achieve the goal with a touch of splendour and a dash of class. In the end, as usual, the Scottish fans were dumb-struck right to the last minute, twitching nervously on the slopes of Hampden, strong hearts beating and whispering: "Please referee, blow for time up." Or words to that effect.

If Leonardo Da Vinci had been a Scot he would no doubt have demanded a blindfold before creating the Mona Lisa. We are not a nation to make things easy for ourselves. That thought can be filed away in the gold medal-winning category for understatement.

After successive dismal defeats in Yugoslavia and France, Scotland squared up to fun-loving, happy-go-lucky Norway in the final shoot-out in Glasgow while France, with one game remaining at home to Cyprus, prayed and hoped for a miracle that would let them in the backdoor.

The miracle didn't materialise. But the Scots did their best for the French, you can be sure of that. Imagine the scene. Scotland are leading 1-0 with a lofted goal from Ally McCoist just before the interval and, after a fairly-forgettable portion of the second-half, the fans are howling for the final whistle.

Jim Leighton, much-maligned after blundering performances in Zagreb and Paris, is obviously already thinking of looking out the sun-tan lotion when a Norwegian has a go from all of 45 yards. No-one is unduly worried until, alarmingly, it is noticed that this speculative effort has somehow found its way past the keeper's floundering and hapless dive.

Suddenly, it's 1-1 and another mishap will ruin any good work that has been done in previous section games. Fans are disintegrating everywhere. Hair is being pulled out in huge clumps. Grown men are breaking down. Hardened journalists in the Press Box are agog. Yes, we've seen it all before, haven't we?

Seconds turn into centuries before the referee ends the misery and puts his whistle to his lips and signals the end of the game. Oh, joy! No nation enjoys celebrating such an encounter of mind-numbing proportions as the Scots.

"Here we go ... here we go ..."

Above: Paul McStay needs help in Scotland's midfield. Left: McCoist strikes against Norway. Below: Malpas – ever dependable.

splits the grey Glasgow skies and, amid the euphoria and joyous bedlam, the game – the *actual* 90 minutes – is conveniently forgotten. So, too, are the puny efforts in Zagreb and Paris.

The moment of real truth is just around the corner, however. Italy. Three games away from Hampden and Scotland are hardly ever going to be accepted as a world force on past records in these Finals. Three victories in the past 12 games in West Germany, Argentina, Spain and Mexico – against Zaire, Holland and New Zealand.

Only one goal was scored in the '86 Finals in Mexico, a shot by Gordon Strachan being deflected past Schumacher by Augenthaler. Scotland were there just to make up the numbers. The same again applies.

There have been dark, grim suspicions of over-doing the hype business since the time Scotland lurched off in the direction of Argentina in 1978, promising to return with some sort of medal. It wasn't a surprise when they returned without a medal ... it was a shock they bothered to return, at all.

It was a case of Ally in blunderland as the Scots nosedived to defeat against Peru, scraped a draw against Iran and, in the aftermath of drug scandals and stories of monumental drinking bouts, walloped the best team in the tournament, Holland, 3-2.

In Scotland's travels into World Cup Finals we have been assaulted with a mixture of the wonderful and woeful, brilliant and banal, spectacular and silly. But mainly woeful, banal and silly.

There is absolutely nothing to suggest that there will be a dramatic change in fortune in Italy. Certainly the fans will be there in their thousands and they'll make their presence felt by being the weirdest-dressed supporters in the country – who needs to look like Rob Roy in 90 degrees sweltering conditions? – but, at the end of the four-and-a-half actual football hours played, it could be arrivederci Roma.

Pessimist? No, I would prefer realist. Scotland travel to Italy without the devastating penalty box prowess of Denis Law, the blinding midfield talents of Jim Baxter, the gritty, onfield leadership of Billy Bremner, the calm, sophisticated touch of Graeme Souness, the darting, serpentine weaving right-wing jinks of Jimmy Johnstone and the overall excellence of Kenny Dalglish. Sadly, there is no-one in the present squad

who measures up in presence and ability to these former international heroes.

The Scots will have to adopt a Musketeer's outlook for the Italian job. It's got to be a one-for-all-and-all-for-one situation. There is no-one who can go out there, take a game by the scruff of the neck and dominate from start to finish.

All along it has been a team job – most of the headlines may have gone the way of Mo Johnston and Ally McCoist, the marksmen – but, whether in victory or defeat, it has been the entire team that has, or hasn't, done the business.

Andy Roxburgh now has vital months to assemble a squad good enough not to be embarrassed in Italy ... a squad, hopefully, capable of making history and actually gaining a place in the second phase, something this nation has never achieved.

The squad that took Scotland to Italy will not be good enough to perform on the world stage. That is obvious. Roxburgh will have to be ruthless.

Colleague

Leighton, deservedly, has taken some flak recently, despite the formidable backing of Alex Ferguson. His confidence has shaded and he is conceding goals these days that would have been unthinkable only a year or so ago. Roxburgh should consolidate competition for the No. 1 jersey by giving Andy Goram his opportunity in the games leading up to the World Cup.

The most consistent 'keeper I have seen in the past year has been Aberdeen's Theo Snelders. What a pity he doesn't have a Scottish granny tucked away somewhere!

There is no problem over the left-back spot in the team, Dundee's extremely dependable Maurice Malpas goes about his work with the minimum of fuss, rarely hogs the headlines, but is a superb professional and an all-round inspiration.

I wish he had a twin who could take over at right-back. Steve Nicol is plainly not the answer in that position. Injury prevented him playing against Norway, but I wouldn't have been holding my breath thinking he was a certainty to make the final selection. Gary Gillespie, his Liverpool colleague, has also worn the No. 2 shirt and he looks as comfortable in that position as a giraffe on ice.

If the shirt doesn't go to the adaptable Richard Gough, then Roxburgh must give it to someone who knows how to play in the position. I'm talking about either Steve Clarke, of Chelsea, or Aberdeen's Stewart McKimmie. And, please, let's not even mention Davie McPherson, of Hearts. Like Gillespie, he is a central defender and a fast, tricky winger would have him contemplating suicide long before half-time.

The central defence is a bit of a problem area, too. Does Roxburgh keep Alex McLeish in the No. 5 shirt or bring in the more elegant Gillespie? McLeish and Malpas, to my mind, have been the most consistent defenders throughout this campaign. They should be given the opportunity to find a blend alongside each other with old reliable Willie Miller playing as a free man at the back.

I have always applauded the gifted Paul McStay, overladen with talents and overburdened with tasks for club and country. He needs help in the cockpit. URGENTLY!

Roy Aitken was almost swept away in an avalanche of criticism after recent international displays. I'm surprised that rugged Roy has proved to be so sensitive to some of the comments. I would have thought someone of his experience would have merely shrugged them off and gone steaming straight ahead.

I agree that some of the things that have been said about Aitken are over the top. I can see why he may even think along the lines of personal vendettas and the like. But Scotland's World Cup captain should be a big enough man to shrug them off.

It could be that Steve Nicol will be freed from his right-back role to play in the right-side of the midfield with McStay playing centre stage. And the erratic Jim Bett could play on the left-side. Bett blows hot and cold for Scotland, but Roxburgh desperately needs someone who can operate down the left and take the weight off Malpas and also help open up the midfield.

Reckless

That leaves two places up front and they have got to go to Johnston and McCoist. There's little point in chopping and changing in this department now. A player such as Gordon Durie, of Chelsea, or Celtic's lightweight Joe Miller has the replica qualities needed to step in if injury should blight either Ally or Mo. Brian McClair, too, could be invaluable in Italy with his well-timed runs from the middle of the park into danger zones.

And if Scotland are utterly frustrated trying to play football on the deck and decide to go for broke they could always throw in Rambo – Alan McInally's uncompromising style might just unsettle and unlock a few defences.

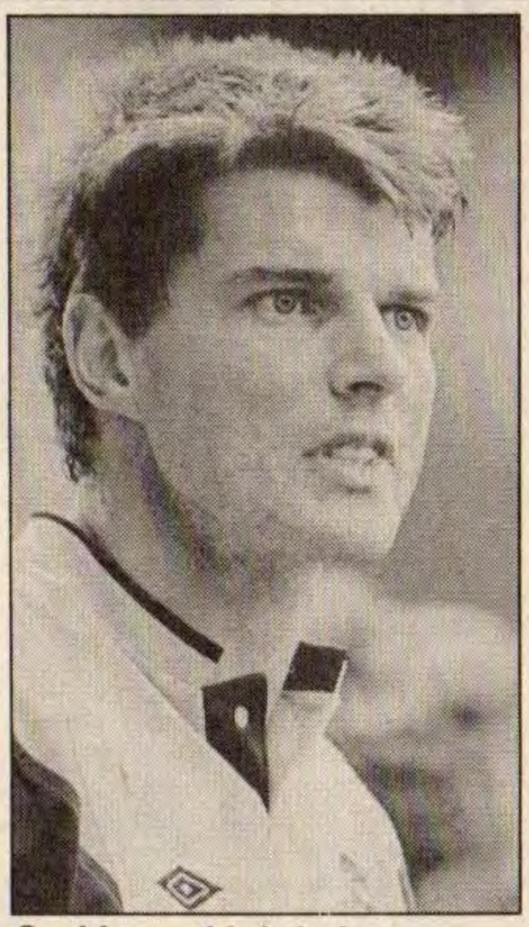
If we are really feeling reckless there could also be a place for the bewildering Ted McMinn, of Derby, on the left wing. He is a better long-term bet than Davie Cooper.

While other nations will undoubtedly produce scorching sand-dances in Italy, Scotland could come up with a flaccid farrago. It's rare to talk to anyone who actually believes Scotland will win the most glittering prize in global sport. It's scarcer even than finding someone who actually owns up to watching 'Prisoner Cell Block H'. There must be one out there somewhere, but you would need the detective qualities of Sherlock Holmes to track them down.

So, let's have a swift look into the crystal ball and see if we can come up with the fortunate 22 who will become Scotland's elite in Italy. Did I say fortunate? Anyway, here's my squad: GOAL: Jim Leighton, Andy Goram and Bryan Gunn. DEFENDERS: Richard Gough, Stewart McKimmie or Steve Clarke, Alex McLeish, Gary Gillespie, Willie Miller, Derek Whyte, Craig Levein or Dave McPherson. MIDFIELD: Steve Nicol, Roy Aitken, Paul McStay, Jim Bett, John Collins. FORWARDS: Joe Miller or Pat Nevin, Brian McClair, Mo Johnston, Ally McCoist, Gordon Durie, Alan McInally and Ted McMinn.

DUTCH TREAT FOR DONS

BY ALAN FAIRLEY



Snelders – third choice.

ABERDEEN'S memorable extra-time victory over Rangers in this year's Scottish League Cup (Skol Cup) final was achieved with the help of the club's greatly valued "Dutch connection" – Theo Snelders, Willem Van der Ark and Paul Mason – who have all been recruited to the Pittodrie side over the course of the past two years from football clubs in the Netherlands.

Each of these three players made a significant contribution to the Dons' victory at Hampden Park with long serving captain Willie Miller finally getting his hands on the trophy following defeats by Rangers in the previous two finals.

In an endeavour to capitalise on their success, Aberdeen have "gone Dutch" once again, strengthening their player pool with the acquisition, in November, of striker Hans Gillhaus from PSV Eindhoven.

Gillhaus made a spectacular debut in the Scottish League, scoring twice in his new club's 3-0 win at Dunfermline and looks like proving to be one of manager Alex Smith's most inspirational purchases.

Goalkeeper Theo Snelders, however, signed for £280,000 last year from F.C. Twente Enschede, has perhaps been the most influential of all the Dutch imports. Upon his arrival at Pittodrie, he was faced with the daunting task of filling the void left by Jim Leighton in the Aberdeen goal, following the Scotland keeper's decision to rejoin his former boss Alex Ferguson at Manchester United.

Signed by Twente Enschede as a 16-year-old, Snelders established a reputation as a steady, reliable goalkeeper in the Dutch League but was unable to achieve any tangible success while with the club.

"Teams like Ajax, Feyenoord and PSV Eindhoven tend to dominate domestic football in Holland," he says, "and sides like Twente are very rarely among the honours. In deciding to move to Aberdeen, I was confident of being in a position to alter that situation."

During his first season at Pittodrie however, Snelders suffered the agony of twice finding himself in the runners-up position, his new club finishing second in the Scottish Premier League to Rangers and losing to the same team in the hard fought 1988 Skol Cup final.

Despite these disappointments, his fine league performances did not go unnoticed in his native Holland and, following an injury to Hans Van Breukelen, he found himself thrust into the international limelight, obtaining his first cap in a friendly match against the Soviet Union, but his career at this level was later to suffer a setback when an apparent attack of nerves caused him to be withdrawn from the side which was due to play West Germany in a World Cup qualifier.

Fortunately, Snelder's confidence has been unaffected by that episode and, although he accepts that he is now no more than third choice as Holland's international 'keeper, his performances for Aberdeen this season have indicated that he is ready to make the step which, at one stage, appeared beyond his grasp.

Signature

Willem Van der Ark joined his countryman Snelders at Aberdeen in January 1989, with Dons' manager Alex Smith paying unfashionable Dutch side Willem II £350,000 for the signature of the tall, blond striker. Van der Ark is the tallest outfield player in Scotland and his appearance as a second half substitute for Aberdeen in the Skol Cup final helped swing the game in the Dons favour as his height was put to significant use up front, taking the weight off other forwards such as Charlie Nicholas and Paul Mason who were beginning to struggle against the aerial dominance of Terry Butcher and Richard Gough in the Rangers defence.

The fourth member of the Dons' "Dutch connection" comes in the unlikely form of exiled Liverpudlian Paul Mason. The 25 year old striker failed to make the grade as a professional with either Everton or Tranmere Rovers and he left Merseyside in search of work in Holland, accepting that his dreams of a career in football were over.

He ended up playing for Groningen, however, and Alex Smith noted his ability while watching Theo Snelders in a Groningen v Twente league match. Mason joined Aberdeen for £160,000 in 1988 and it was his two goals which gave the club their Skol Cup victory.

EVANI IS A WORLD

World Club Cup Report from Jonathan Shallard in Tokyo

Alberigo Evani may not be the most dazzling star in the Milan galaxy, but his free-kick two minutes from the end of this year's Toyota Cup certainly saved his more 'Mediagenic' colleagues from a possible catastrophe.

When Evani left-footed his free-kick past a badly formed wall of Atletico Nacional defenders, perhaps picking up the slightest of deflections from John Jair Trellez as it caught Rene Hijnita completely off-guard, it was the second time in ten days that he had performed the same trick to add to Milan's ever-growing collection of international honours.

For on December 7 it had been an Evani free-kick which had won the second leg of the European Super Cup, 1-0 against Barcelona in San Siro.

Evani's Tokyo strike, however, was more vital. The unfancied Colombians had made life for Arrigo Sacchi's thoroughbreds uncomfortable enough for the Italians surely not to have wanted to settle the affair from the penalty-spot, a solution at which Atletico Nacional have frequently proved adept – including their win against Olimpia of Paraguay in the Copa Libertadores final.

Few people would ever have contemplated such a possible outcome before the match. Milan were clear favourites to win, even though the record before this year stood 7-2 in favour of the South Americans since the European South American Cup moved to Tokyo.

Even without Ruud Gullit, whose troublesome knee had been operated on again some days before the squad flew to Japan, Milan's pedigree looked too impressive for an Atletico Nacional team featuring no reserve goalkeeper in the 16 man squad taken to Tokyo.

But the pundits who predicted the highest scoring Toyota Cup ever could hardly have been more wide of the mark. It always seemed that if Milan could conjure up the type of inspired form which had smashed Steaua Bucharest last May, the South Americans would offer little more resistance than the Rumanians.

Instead Milan had to settle for a typically Italian League performance – play badly at times, but win the match. After all, many are those who regard that as the hallmark of the champions.

The early goal which may have transformed the game almost came after four minutes: Marco Van Basten slipped Hijnita but was forced to the extreme right of the penalty area, where he suddenly found himself face to face with the extraordinary goalkeeper again and lost the ball before he could get it into the goalmouth.

It was an important moment for both men. Van Basten heralded in Japan with the acclaim befitting a World Footballer of the Year, never really got into his stride, Escobar allowing him only the briefest of opportunities to shine.

Hijnita, on the other hand, went from one extravagance to another, not only advancing well outside his penalty area in characteristic fashion on numerous occasions, but enchanting the crowd with a string of party pieces: heading the ball, chesting it down, selling Van Basten a superb dummy, and at one point literally juggling the ball from one hand to another.

Goalkeeping a la Hijnita was, unfortunately perhaps, the brightest

Late free kick floors Colombians

feature of a first half which produced technical rather than spectacular or passionate football. Atletico Nacional had clearly the better of the first half hour, much of which was muddled and nervous, but the shooting of Trellez in particular left much to be desired.

Had Atletico Nacional managed to emulate so many of their continental predecessors in Tokyo and snatch an early goal while the Europeans were struggling to settle down, it would have been interesting to see Milan's reaction.

As it was, the best chances fell to Milan, especially as the half wore on, and Van Basten gave a tantalising glimpse of his elegant power when he beat two defenders and fired over the bar as well as the advancing Hijnita. But half time came as Arboleda slipped Baresi and Maldini on the right only to send a cross too high to be of practical value.

Not unexpectedly Maturana brought on the lanky Uzurriaga to start the second half, the new man operating essentially down the Colombians right wing. But now Atletico Nacional began to struggle to reproduce the form of their first half session as Milan started to win more balls in midfield, Rijkaard in particular becoming more involved.

With more of the ball Milan became more dominating. Rijkaard narrowly failed to reach Van Basten's touch on of Baersi's through pass, Massaro was beaten by the flight of Donadoni's cross, Simone could not get to Rijkaard's header across goal, and the two Dutchmen combined delightfully in the last minute of normal time but the decisive touch continued to elude them.

At the other end, Milan's problems were largely of their own making: Trellez fired wide from 10 metres as the defence watched Uzurriaga's pass go by; Donadoni made two hashes within 5 seconds. Baresi committed the first of two such improbably awful square passes that it became obvious that this simply was not Milan's day, either.

So extra time, the fourth time in ten years of Tokyo Toyota Cup Finals. Tiring limbs brought a flurry of yellow cards for Maldini, Garcia and Ricardo Perez, and also a number of free-kicks. Most of them went to Milan and were promptly squandered with neither finesse nor imagination.

Milan's Maldini holds off Nacional's Herrera.

BEATER FOR MILAN

Left: Alberigo Evani strikes the winner and Milan are Toyota Cup Champions as Franco Baresi and Mauro Tassotti celebrate (right).

WORLD CLUB CUP FINAL

Tokyo (December 17)
Milan 1 (Evani 118)
Atletico Nacional 1
HT: 0-0. 90 min: 0-0. Att: 62,000. Ref: Fredriksson (Swe)

Milan: Galli – Tassotti, Maldini, Fuser (Evani 65), Costacurta, Baresi, Donadoni, Rijkaard, Van Basten, Ancelotti, Massaro (Simone 69). Subs not used: Pazzagli, Carobbi, Stroppa.

Nacional: Higuita – Escobar, Gildardo Gomez, Herrera, Cassiani, Ricardo Perez, Arango (Restrepo 91), Alvarez, Arboleda (Uzurriaga 46), Garcia, Trellez. Subs not used: Felipe Perez, Suarez, Villa.

Until, that is, Evani's strike in the 118th minute. The enterprising Simone had despatched Van Basten through the middle, and the Dutchman was felled a metre outside the box. As Evani said later, first it was intended that Donadoni should try a chip but the little substitute took matters into his own hands and sent his colleagues into a frenzy of delight.

Atletico Nacional took defeat on the chin – even if the last minute sucker punch had been a particularly hard one to suffer. Coach Maturana, a tremendously likeable man whose future in the game promises to be more rewarding even than his career as a dentist, said he had been proud of the way his team had contained Milan for so much of the game but it was the vital moment of inattention which showed Evani the chink in the wall.

Maybe, too, it had been Atletico Nacional's lack of match practice which cost them on the day. With the Colombian Championship suspended after the referee shooting incident on November 22. Atletico Nacional had played only three friendlies in the previous three weeks.

Herrera, despite an eight month lay off for injury, caught the eye in particular apart of course from the extraordinary Hijnita.

Key man for Milan without doubt, was the tireless Donadoni in midfield, evidently fully recovered from the effects of air-sickness on the flight to Tokyo. Up front, however, it did not look as if the best partner for Van Basten has yet been found, despite the commitment of Massuro and Marco Simone.

Thus AC Milan have the satisfaction of winning their second European South American Cup (after 1969) and so equalling the achievement of rivals Inter. And by being named as the game's most valuable player, Evani's name is added to an eminent list already containing the likes of Platini and Zico.

Perhaps the greatest acknowledgement however, should go to the two teams together for the manner in which they withstood a prematch barrage of press comment aimed less at the game itself than at the current political and social circumstances in Colombia.

Allegations of Atletico Nacional's involvement, even in the most indirect way, in the Colombian drugs cartel in their home city of Nwedekkub were strenously denied by the club's amiable president, Sergio Maranjo Milan, meanwhile nobly and correctly ignoring a minority voice calling for them to boycott the match, and the dignified behaviour of both clubs and their players did much to take the sting out of the press campaign.

And finally, it should be recorded that football fever has truly arrived in Japan. The 62,000 capacity crowd has broke with the image of the Japanese as stiflingly conservative and produced that symbol of modern football fanaticism: the ola wave after wave of which swept around the National Stadium in the glorious December sunshine.

A fine way to salute the first decade of the Toyota Cup even if the football itself was sometimes less memorable ...

● Atletico Nacional coach Francisco Maturana, also coach of the Colombian national team drawn to play in the Milan-Bologna World Cup group in June has been invited to observe Milan in training for a week in March. Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi responded to Maturana's request shortly after the Tokyo match.

● Three Atletico Nacional players – Herrera, Cassiani and Alvarez – may be joining English First Division club Derby for an experimental four month guest stint. Derby chief executive Stuart Webb, making his annual visit to the Toyota Cup discussed the possibility with Atletico Nacional president Serio Narango and is hoping the Colombian trio will come to England early in the New Year.

● Marco Simone's father was among the Milan fans in Tokyo. A hairdresser, Simone senior treated Ancelotti Tassotti and Massaro to a free hair cut – but then went sick before he could complete the rest of the squad. However, the remaining players were not sorry when they saw the effect which the long flight and jet lag seemed to have had on father Simone's hairdressing skills.

● The FIFA Fair Play Campaign reached Japan with both teams carrying Fair Play Flags onto the pitch before kick-off, Donadoni and Trellert posing for photographers in Fair Play T-shirts and thousands of Fair Play Yellow cards distributed to fans in the Olympic Stadium.

HOW TORINO ARE STARTING OVER

From KEIR RADNEDGE in Italy

WHO can forget the Superga air disaster? asked the Avellino fan club magazine in an article introducing Torino to their fans.

The problem is, not enough. That's been Torino's curse down 40 years. Too much nostalgia, too much harking back to the days when Torino were Italy's only success story in the late 1940s, five time champions under the leadership of Valentino Mazzola.

Luciano Pavarotti, opera star, demonstrated the strength of the point to perfection when, on the eve of the World Cup draw, he talked of his first love for football.

Pavarotti said: "When I was a boy Torino represented the ideal team for everyone who followed soccer. They were the example to follow, the example of how to live and play like champions."

So where do we find Torino today? In Serie B, the second division. 'Toro' were relegated at the end of last season, snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, the players' controversial demands for a 'survival bonus' stillborn.

They got what they deserved. Nothing. Now they are running strongly for promotion, hoping to repeat the instant recovery which followed the last such setback in 1957.

Manchester United fans may recognise the scenario. They should be grateful for small mercies. United have been relegated only once since their own air crash. Maybe they have another yet to come. Certainly boardroom uncertainty has characterised both clubs this past year. I caught up with Torino at Avellino, the town and the team in Napoli's shadow down the Autostrada Sud 1 past Monte Cassino.

Avellino have a history of their own. They are the Wolves of Italy. Not that they compare in achievement. But since the Irpina region was one of the last in which wolves roamed the hills and forests, the nickname stuck.

Italians from beyond also use the nickname in derogatory fashion. But the football club have been happy to take it up. So have their fans. More than happy, in fact.

The balustrade of the Curva Sud terrace was covered in banners proclaiming the "South Wolves," complete with an American Confederate flag. Also making their presence known were the "Commando Green," their illustration being a lurid skull.

So much for the propaganda nonsense preached in England that foreign crowds prefer to sit. There was a 14,561 crowd officially (it looked around 20,000 but never mind ...) and while the wing stands were sparsely occupied the standing terraces behind the goals were packed.

Interestingly the protective mesh fence which was raised to shield the trap door to the dressing rooms was in front of the stand, not the terracing. The goal-end fans preferred not to throw missiles (paper cups were the most popular evidence of occasional unrest) but cast fireworks down onto the running track instead. Since this was a holiday weekend in most of Italy fireworks were freely on sale from little kiosks in the streets on the way to the ground.

Popular

FIFA and UEFA officials would have had apoplexy!

Torino were popular visitors to the Stadio Penitario. Apart from their reputation and players such as Italian defender Roberto Cravero, the Yugoslav Haris Skoro and Brazil winger Muller, they also brought Eugenio Fascetti, who was coach last season at Avellino.

Torino warmed up on the training pitch behind the east stand. They were second in the table and favourites for promotion.

Avellino warmed up on the pitch then disappeared for some exercise work in the gym. They were seventh in the table but enjoying a run of success prompted by the goals of Sorbello and victory the previous week in a crowd-disrupted match at Barletta.

In the event Torino dropped Muller down among the substitutes. Fascetti said it was for "tactical reasons." But it was an open secret that he missed the flight south on the Thursday evening – the latest in a string of disciplinary misdemeanours since his arrival at the club.

Muller was furious. He was fined $2,500 but it was the humiliation of being landed on the subs' bench which upset him the most. He said: "Either I play or I sit in the stand." And he refused to come out to take his place for the second half. More trouble is clearly on the way. Fascetti set out his stall in a clear man-for-man catenaccio with Cravero as sweeper. Avellino, for variation, played a zone system with a sweeper who, like opposite number Cravero, was also their skipper.

As for the rest, Torino spread a net of eight players across midfield and

Left: Roberto Cravero – crucial sweeper role. Muller (above) – in trouble with Torino.

Cravero and Skoro lead the battle for promotion

left only Pacione up front. Avellino's ploy to try to break them down was to hit long balls over the midfield for Baiano, their neat and skilful centre-forward, to knock it back into the path of the midfielders.

An erratic tactic it proved. Torino, having won the toss, had chosen to play with the icy wind at their backs and more often than not Amodio's long, lofted passes were held up in the air.

Not always, though. It took Baiano one minute to create danger. His free kick to the far post found Sorbello's head and keeper Marchegiani went down at the post to save well.

I watched from a press box which would put any in the English first division to shame. Running the full length of the pitch it was also clean and spacious – a notable contrast to the cramped grime in which most English domestic reporters have to work (And the clubs wonder why they get a bad press!).

The stadium clock – ticking away not merely the minutes, but the seconds down to hundreds of a second – had run up 22-12-07 when Torino hit a first setback. Pacione, who had been wearing knee-length black tights to protect his muscles, pulled one of them anyway and had to limp off. Lentini arrived as substitute and, almost immediately, won the game's first corner. Suddenly Torino began to show a little confidence, with Policano shifting the ball around deftly in midfield. This was not, however, to be his day.

On the half hour he was book for tripping Celestini for the second time in two minutes – his fourth booking and thus earning an automatic suspension. Then he put Avellino ahead with an own goal.

Fullback Filardi broke down the left and found Sorbello. As he dashed across the penalty box so Policano, running back, drove a half-volley sweet and hard beneath the body of his own diving goalkeeper. Shortly afterwards he was substituted by a peeved Fascetti.

It took Torino four minutes to equalise. Cravero stayed upfield after one raid and was unmarked to glance home a cross from Lentini.

At half-time the stadium announcer read out all the first and second division scores. None of the nonsense of the a-b-c code which forces fans to buy programmes still at many English grounds. Giving the other scores was seen as part of the service for the fans, part of their day out.

The second half saw both teams start to close the game down. Torino were happy to maintain their unbeaten record, Avellino were happy with a point which kept them in touch with the top four.

The few moments of inspiration were provided by Skoro. He had spent the first half looking as if he hated every minute of it. But after the break he began to find space on the left and open up the Avellino defence with some classic runs which were usually ended by equally classic trips.

Unfaithful

The sun disappeared behind the hills, the wind whipped the paper cups down the running track and referee Luci's final whistle was answered with a chorus of whistles from the Avellino unfaithful.

Torino's fans lit a dozen small bonfires on the concrete terracing and those newspapers which were not alight blew down the pitch, out over the Curva Sud and on into town.

Beneath the stand both coaches, Fascetti and Avellino's burly Nedo Sonetti, smiled and joked with reporters. Both had a point. Both had a job for another week.

The crowd figures were revealing. Avellino counted 8,189 members (season ticket-holders) worth $49,000, and 6,372 pay-on-the-day fans worth $53,000. The 14,561 crowd thus generated income of $102,000. Not a bad afternoon's work.

Avellino may squeeze through into the promotion places. But it would take a major investment in personnel to keep them up.

As for Torino, they look odds-on for a return to the top flight. Players like Cravero and Skoro – when he feels like it – are too good for Serie B. Whether Torino can ever shake off the overblown nostalgia which oppresses their every effort is another matter.

Haris Skoro – a popular visitor.

Avellino 1 (Policano og 32)
Torino 1 (Cravero 34)
HT: 1-1. Att: 14,561. Ref: Luci.
Avellino: Taglialatela – Parpiglia, Filardi, Celestini, Ferrario, Amodio, Sorbello, Manzo, Baiano, Pileggi, Moz (Compagno 76).
Torino: Marchegiani – Ferrarese, Rossi, Enzo, Benedetti, Cravero, Skoro, Romano, Pacione (Lentini 22), Policano (Bianchi 38), Venturin.

TOP OF THE SECOND DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pisa	16	8	7	1	23	6	23
Torino	16	6	10	0	24	7	22
Parma	16	7	8	1	23	10	22
Cagliari	16	7	5	4	14	11	19
Reggiani	16	4	10	2	14	10	18
Reggina	16	5	8	3	13	10	18
Monza	16	7	4	5	12	13	18
Ancona	16	4	9	3	19	14	17
Avellino	16	7	3	6	15	14	17

Top scorers: Piovanelli (Pisa), Silenzi (Reggiana) 10 each; Ciocci (Ancona) and Sorbello (Avellino) 7 each.

Donadoni looks the part

BY JANE NOTTAGE

WITH only five months to go before the start of the World Cup the Azzurri are looking decidedly fragile.

At least Roberto Donadoni proved himself both in the 0-0 draw against England and in the friendly against Algeria, which should have been a walk over but instead ended in a hard earned 1-0 victory.

There had been perhaps only three players certain of their places – goalkeeper Walter Zenga, striker Gianluca Vialli and sweeper Franco Baresi.

Now we can add Donadoni to the list but as far as the rest of the team is concerned a big question mark remains. Young Baggio failed to live up to expectations, but perhaps too much is being expected of him.

To be fair he's really not being given the liberty that he needs with Guiseppe Giannini taking the forward role in midfield. It's clear to everyone, including now the team manager Azeglio Vicini that Baggio and Giannini cannot coexist and one will have to make room for the other.

At last Juventus are showing signs of life. At home against Sampdoria, goalkeeper Tacconi made an impossible save in the last minute of the game and the Soviet Union's Alenikov drove ahead and scored in the 34th minute for a valuable victory.

There's just one dream left for patron Gianni Agnelli, and that's to buy Vialli. "Who wouldn't want Vialli, but is Mantovani (Sampdoria President ndr) willing to let him go?" he said.

Internazionale having shown such consistency and form last season have run out of a bit of puff, mainly due to the injury that side-lined German star Lothar Matthäus.

Never particularly spectacular or full of fantasy, Inter are nevertheless maintaining consistency in the league with a more than creditable joint second place. One of the team's great strengths is that when one member of the team is off form there is always a companion that is more than able to take his place.

Famine

So with Matthäus side-lined Aldo Serena is showing his old form of last season. In fact his goal with the national team against Algeria broke a three year famine of goals for the Italian team.

As for league leaders Napoli, they are perhaps the greatest enigma of all after the UEFA Cup thrashing by Werder Bremen.

Diego Maradona, meanwhile, is still 'doing his own thing'. A week before his wedding he decided it was too much effort to train and so he stayed in bed for two days, refusing to be disturbed. On the third day he rose again but president Corrado Ferlaino decided enough was enough and sent him home telling him he wasn't needed to play in the UEFA Cup against Wettingen. With his tail between his legs Maradona departed for Argentina where he finally married his long time girlfriend Claudia Villafane – after a 13-year courtship and two children.

SOVIET UNION by BOB VAUGHAN

SPARTAK TITLE TRIUMPH

THE departure of veteran club manager Konstantin Beskov plus Dasayev, Bubnov and Khidiatulin seemed to herald black clouds ahead for Moscow Spartak when the 1990 campaign began – especially when responsibility for the team was put in the hands of former skipper, Oleg Romantsev, whose coaching experience did not extend beyond Division Three.

But everyone, almost, was wrong. Spartak romped to their 12th title and the only blot on the landscape was crashing 3-1 in Cologne and failing to score at all in the return UEFA tie.

Romantsev sensibly kept together the bulk of the squad inherited from Beskov, worked hard, encouraged rather than bullied his charges and instilled confidence.

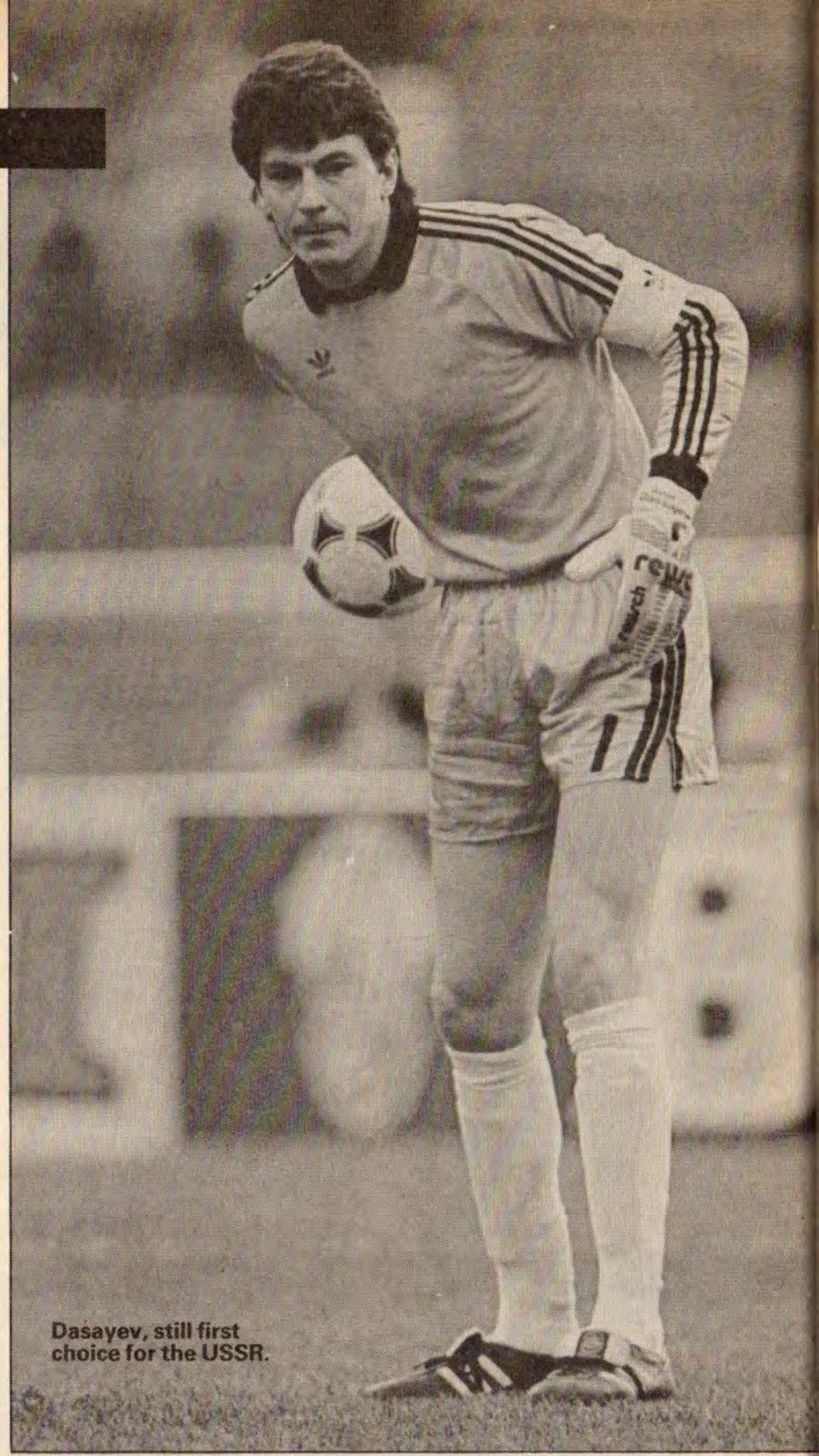
Cherchesov, with the difficult task of replacing Dasayev, proved a success and was beaten less than once a match over 30 championship games. A poor night in the Muengersdorfer Stadion apart, he was an inspiration to the four experienced men immediately in front of him – Basulev, the libero, Susluparov, the stopper, Bokij and Kulkov. The latter was the discovery of the season and is already a member of Lobanovsky's national squad.

In attack Spartak were well served by Rodionov, described as a 'pure Spartak product,' and responsible for 16 goals in the championship.

Off the field Spartak still listen and learn from the legendary Nikolai Starostin, a founder member of the club in the mid thirties, and a key figure still when it comes to management, recruitment and politics.

He, too, is involved in the gradual move towards full professionalism. One of the first achievements has been to agree sponsorship with a South Korean firm, Jindo.

On the international front the Turks were seen off in Simferopol, as expected, and Group Three clinched but there seemed to be not a little nervousness on the bench. One wonders if running the 'Sbornaja', managing Kiev, who could not manager a goal home or away to Fiorentina and were eliminated from the UEFA Cup, and trying to complete the birth of the 'Football Union' are too much of a strain for Valeri Lobanovsky.



Dasayev, still first choice for the USSR.

EAST GERMANY by BOB VAUGHAN

'Wall' collapses – in Vienna

POLITICAL events have not left football untouched since the government fell and The Wall was opened.

The World Cup disappointment has more or less been forgotten though the opportunity to be present in the Prater for the tie with Hickersberger's rampant Austrians will not be by the 4,000 or so supporters who were able to travel without a visa to Vienna.

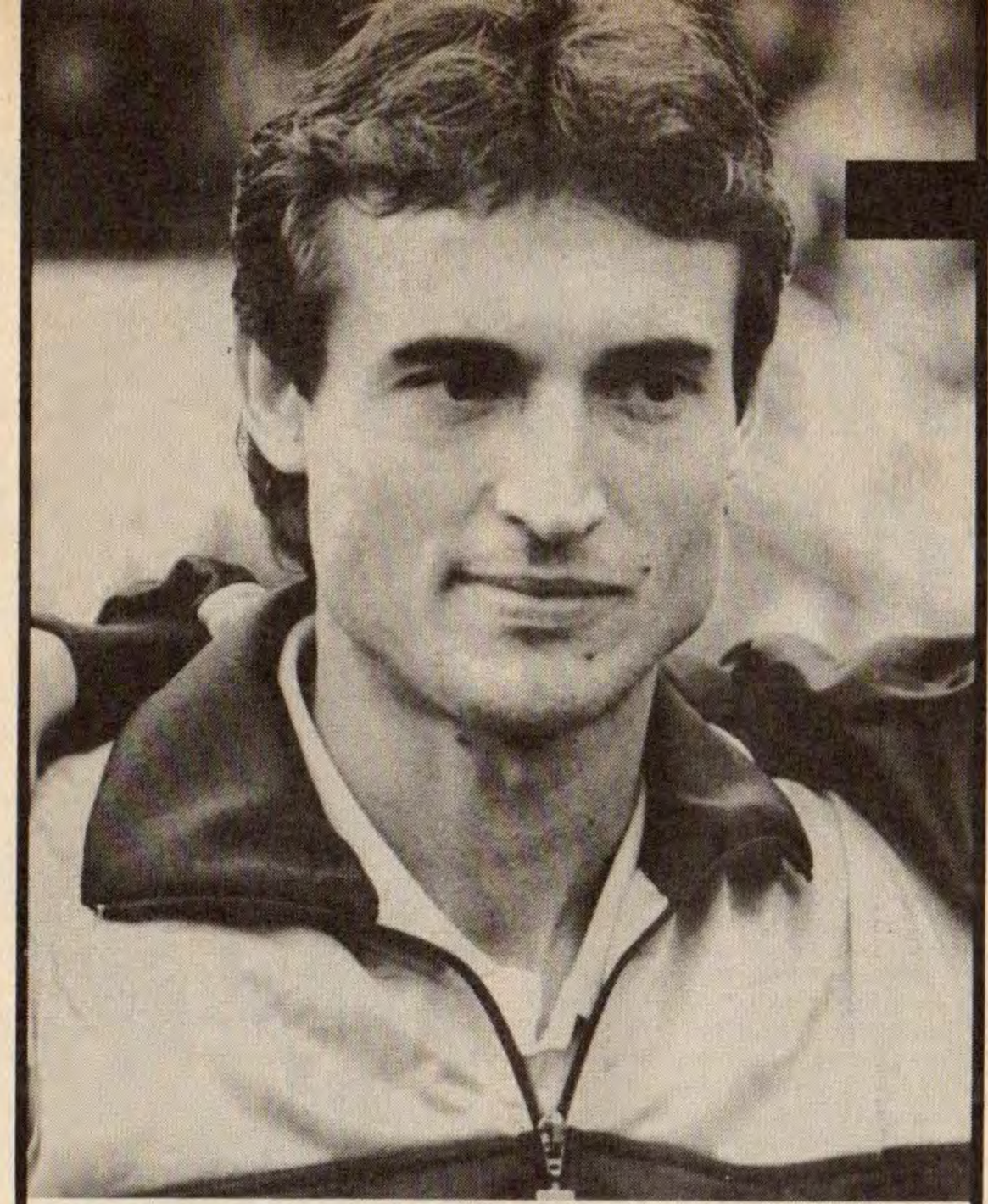
The game was one manager Geyer, will want to forget. Nothing went right, the team's pre-match optimism disappeared, the Austrians' second minute penalty was dubious, Stahmann missed a penalty which could have put the GDR back in the game and Kreet's sending off was the last straw.

A side effect of the World Cup defeat and the opportunity to see Bundesliga football has meant declining and poor attendances at Oberliga matches since mid November. An exception is Magdeburg, who are well supported especially now that they lead the table though only by a point from Dynamo Dresden.

Organisation changes being proposed include the setting up of professional football with players under contract, a transfer system, coaches from abroad being employed, sponsorship being introduced and foreign players being permitted in top clubs – all this to be run by an Independent DFV (East German FA).

But most of the top players have informal offers from West Germany or abroad and there is a real danger of a sell-out of the country's talent unless guidelines can be set up soon.

Ronald Kreer (left) and East Germany's trip to Austria (right) ended in disaster as their World Cup hopes vanished.



CZECHOSLOVAKIA by BOB VAUGHAN

Planicka recalls ... Italy's World Cup

Planicka (right) meets up with Italy skipper Combi before the 1934 World Cup Final.

Goalkeepers are seldom out of news long. Currently the sons of 1960's heroes Louba, Schmucker, Victor and Vencel are making their mark in the Czechoslovak top flight.

While in Moscow Lev Yashin was being honoured on his 60th birthday a smiling, elderly Czech was a month into his 86th year and hoping the national team will qualify for the World Cup in Italy just as they did in 1934 when Planicka captained the side which took the runners-up medal.

In 1914 he was first approached by the Slavia youth trainer but as he as a keen Sparta fan he did not initially join the hopefuls on the Letna, agreeing only after real football boots were offered!

Faithful

His first steps in adult soccer in Prague were, however, between the posts of SK Slovan and SK Bubenec before he moved to the south of the town to link up with Slavia to whom he has remained faithful since 1923.

In the 1920s and 1930s Planicka was probably one of the top half-dozen continental keepers, some might even rank him second behind the Spaniard Zamora. Both, interestingly enough, had bad experiences in London, Zamora being beaten seven times in the Highbury mud and Planicka, six years later, in 1937, five times when Stanley Matthews, now an old friend with a Czech wife, notched his only hat trick for England at Tottenham.

Between 1923 and 1938 Planicka won 76 caps, his greatest triumph being the World Cup run which ended with the Italian hosts narrowly defeating Czechoslovakia 2-1 in Rome after extra time. For Planicka and his gallant team there were thousands to meet them on their return at the Wilson Station in Prague and a parade through the city.

Planicka's career spanned virtually the whole period of the First Czechoslovak Republic. He made his debut in 1920 in representative football when the Czechs met Italy in an army international in Rome. His final appearance, also in an unofficial international, was against Rumania in Prague in 1938.

Thereafter he had a career as a coach and while that is long behind him he regularly contributes to the debate at Slavia's annual Christmas meeting. He has not enjoyed the best of health this last decade but there was no hesitation when asked which forward he had feared most in his career. The answer was Jan Vanik, fortunately a Slavia teammate.

It is not easy at a distance of half a century to evaluate Planicka's career which had one curiosity. It ended only in the mid 1960s when 'Franta' finally gave up goalkeeping for the Slavia and national teams veterans.

He played in over 220 such games and clearly was no less fearless than when he had begun as a lad with Slovan and Bubenec.

His early career was on ash surfaces and despite being prepared to take hair raising risks to keep his charge in tact he was a master of positioning and directing his defence. He was on the small side of a top 'keeper but his record stands for itself. In league, cup, representative and 'A' international matches for Slovan, Bubenec, Slavia, Prague, the FA and army sides he was on the winning side 871 times in 1,217 matches. If his "Vets" games are included, there were 1,044 wins in 1,442 appearances.

Society

Little of the glory of the clubs and national side in the First Republic has been recorded very publically since 1948 when the reorganisation of sport got under way in Czechoslovakia. Slavia, like many pre-war institutions, was put under new, non bourgeois leadership, names were changed and sport given a new role in society.

Slavia and Sparta suffered for a time, the Dukla clubs took the best players, and still can, when they are called up for military service, and much of the tradition in Czech and Slovak football was lost.

The fans, however, remained loyal and the Big Prague 'S' Derby, Slavia v Sparta, still attracts 30,000 on a good day, as in Planicka's time.

Usually he is there and long may he continue to inspire his beloved Slavia.

UPSET FOR BANIK

WHETHER the extraordinary pace of political change in the country will affect World Cup preparations it is too soon to say but certainly everyone has had greater interests and preoccupations than the Championship.

With the break approaching, Banik's challenge hit a setback when they were toppled by Inter in Petržalka while Sparta were enjoying easy 4-0 pickings at doomed Považaska Bystrica.

Slovan retain third spot and will be seeking a UEFA Cup place after the bitter disappointment of losing a three-goal lead in Zurich to Grasshopper on their return to the European scene.

When weightier social and political matters are eventually settled the cry will doubtless come for a return to a Football Association outside of the General Sports Council able to take its own decisions as existed up to 1948.

But first the freedom of contracts and top players' transfers as from January will be under the microscope. It is to be hoped that the implementation of rules drawn up earlier in 1989 to prevent another 'Kubik-Knofliček' affair will work but not prejudice chances in Italy.

Knofliček at last appears to have found a home in West Germany with St Paoli.

RUMANIA

Steaua close in

STEAUA took the expected maximum points from the postponed home game with Victoria (4-1) thus cutting Dinamo's lead at the top of the table to one point.

The 'Stars' kept up their challenge the following weekend with a 3-0 win at Braşov.

At the foot of the table FC Arges Piteşti are far from down and out. In the course of four days third placed Craiova were defeated in Piteşti and a point taken from Sportul in Bucharest.

Dican obtained the only goal of the game against 'U' and that keeps Arges in touch with fellow candidates for the drop to Divizia B – SC Bacau, Corvinul and Timisoara.

Ex-Cluj manager Cornel Dinu has taken over at FC Olt.

When he visited his former club. Olt lost 1-0 but remain above Olt on goal average.

FRANCE by ANDRE DUCLOS

OLSEN SURVIVES TO SET THE PACE

THE long and the short of it. Piet Den Boer and Jesper Olsen. Two of the chief reasons – Klaus Allofs and Jean-Marc Ferreri being others – why Bordeaux have set such a pace at the top of our League, this season.

Jesper Olsen is the little Danish left winger, once a Manchester United man, whom Bordeaux tried to jettison, but kept. Big Piet Den Boer arrived in the close season, all of 31 years old, from Mechelen, the Champions of Belgium, though he is, of course, a Dutchman himself.

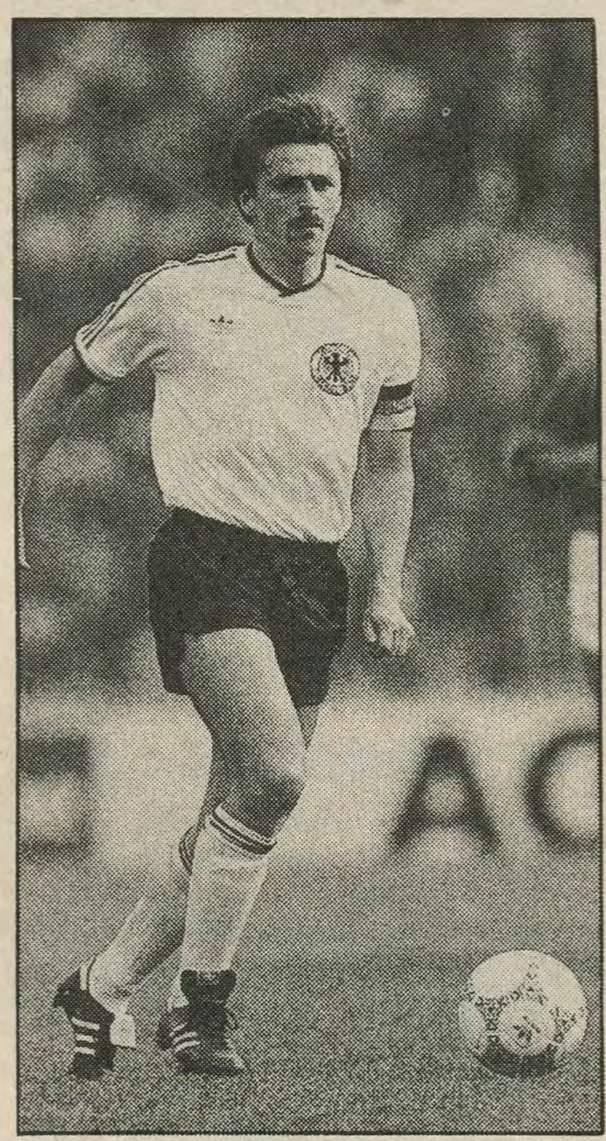
Then of course there is the contribution of a true Belgian, the veteran manager, Raymond Goethals, who has taken over the club this season with such success, Aimé Jacquet having unexpectedly been sent packing by the Big Moustache, Bordeaux's flamboyant and ever controversial Ken Bates like Chairman, Claude Bez (Though so far as we know over here, Bates is not allowed to interfere in the English international set-up).

There was a degree of scepticism about Den Boer, when he arrived. In the past, at Bordeaux, it has been the smaller centre-forwards, such as Lacombe, who have done well for the Girondins. But Den Boer quickly settled down to score goals. He makes them as well; at least four this season have come from his passes.

Olsen believes that the shaking up of the team in the transfer market this season has been a decisive factor; in his own words, there are a number of players with a desire for "revenge". Klaus Allofs must surely be one of those. It must have been particularly sweet for him to play so large a part in the 3-0 defeat of champions, Marseille, at home, when they had kicked him out during the summer.

Olsen feels that not being in any of the European cups has been an advantage to Bordeaux, since it has given them the Championship alone to concentrate on; until, presumably, the Cup comes round. But he says that he and several of the other players greatly miss the involvement in European football. He tends to play down the win over Marseille; just one match, he says, against a team which had just given its all precisely in the European Cup.

Olsen also tends to play down Bordeaux's excellent defensive record at home, going through match after match without conceding a goal. The important thing, he insists, is winning matches, even if the other side scores a goal or two – "We are a group. The manager understood immediately that he has a mature, tactically sophisticated, team at his command."



Klaus Allofs.

Above, all, he pursues, the side has kept blessedly free from injury.

France, as we know, are out of the World Cup, but what a close run thing it was in the end, making you wonder what might have happened had Platini taken over sooner, with the opportunity to make earlier experiments. After one or two somewhat half baked attempts to roll back the years, with the restoration to the side of such as Jean Tigana, he went boldly for youth, and the policy largely paid off. Such a pity about Eric Cantona; but at least Platini gave that wayward star another chance and had decided to stay on in the national job as 'Guarantor'.

But what went wrong with Sochaux? Such a splendid run in the League, a challenge to the leaders, then failure against the 10 men of Fiorentina in the UEFA Cup, and an immediate strange collapse in the Championship.

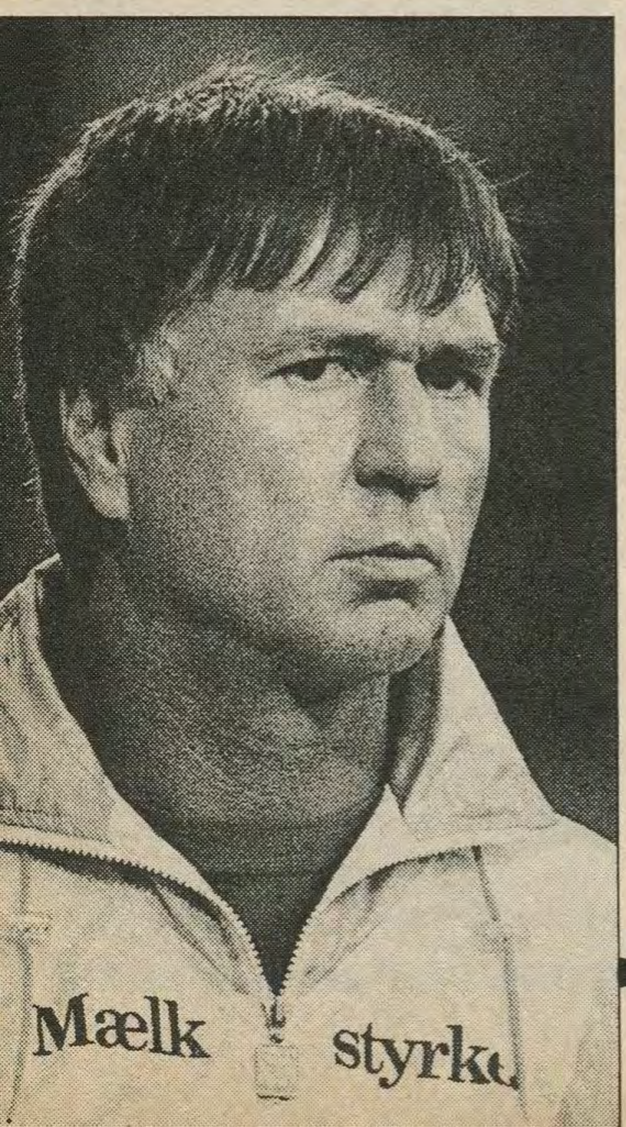
Failure

Frank Silvestre, the young, black centre-half, thinks that the failure against Fiorentina started the slide; followed as it immediately was by that unnerving 5-0 defeat at Lille; capable of beating anybody on their day, it is true. No crisis, Frank insisted; just one of those bad spells which come to every team, at one time or another. And no question of swollen egos, even if he, the Yugoslav defender Hadzibegic and Rousset had complained publicly about their salaries.

Silvestre denies that this dispute, even though it occurred on the eve of the return home game with Fiorentina, has anything to do with the team's loss of form, but he isn't at all pleased that he won't get a rise till the end of his contract; which runs until 1993!

He is determined to regain his place in the French international team. Had he not done so, he says, his morale would really have sunk. But he does not mind at all being switched from

Jesper Olsen.



DENMARK from JIM HOLDEN

Piontek is staying on

DANISH manager Sepp Piontek has committed himself to developing his exciting young team despite their elimination from the World Cup finals in a 3-1 defeat in Bucharest.

Immediately after the match Piontek felt so dismayed he talked of quitting the Danish post after more than 10 years in the job. Instead, he has signed a new six-year contract worth £600,000.

Failure to qualify for the finals in Italy was a bitter blow after an exhilarating centenary year for Danish football. Brazil were beaten 4-6, Sweden 6-0, and Denmark are in the running for *World Soccer's* Team of the Year award. The World Cup finals will be poorer by their absence.

Scuppered

In reality, though, it was not the Bucharest result which scuppered the Danes. Rather it was the home draw with Bulgaria when the new young side had hardly played two matches together.

Nevertheless, Piontek's decision is cheering news for the Danes. The quality of their players is not in doubt, and time is certainly on their side. Piontek knows that only too well. He would not have stayed to manage a marginal outfit.

Holland missed out on the 1986 tournament with their developing side, and two years later were European champions. It is a significant and realistic target if the Danes can continue to progress as they did in 1989 – and if they discover more security in defence. It has always been their achilles heel, even with Morten Olsen at his most commanding.

Olsen's immediate task personally is to perform a similar revival job for deposed champions

Michel Platini.

centre-half to right-back.

How said that for their 1000th match, a crowd, if that be the word, of a mere 5000 should have watched Racing Club de Paris draw 0-0 with Caen. And this in the month of November, when for so many pre and post war years, Racing Club used to play that famous Armistice Day match against the Arsenal. One that has long been overtaken, alas, by the exigencies of European competition.

There were, however, some great games, and some strange events. Such as the time when Gusti Jordan, the celebrated Austrian born centre-half for Racing, fell over and knocked himself out with his own boot! Then there was the day when Joey Hulme, such a rapid outside-right, ran rings around the Parisian left-back. So much so that when he was brought off to sit on the bench the Arsenal and England right-back, Jack Crayston, later to be the club's manager, said that he could make out only three words, "Hulme, greyhound and fatiqued"!

Cantona, by the way, has been pardoned and restored to the team by Montpellier and restored to the side. He is as silent as ever in his attitude to the Press. Perhaps he will now be equally restrained in his behaviour towards those, whether they be opponents, managers or colleagues, who dare to frustrate him. French football needs his talents; but not his explosive lapses of behaviour.

Gerard Gili, the young manager of Marseille, insists that we have not seen the real Marseille yet, that we shall do so only after the long winter break. But how long, in this alarming epoch of global warming, can this strange hiatus continue?

Frank Silvestre has been in dispute with Sochaux over financial matters but was happy to accept a positional switch.

Brondby, who lost their title to OB Odense when the league ended last month. Olsen takes over as manager at professional Brondby in January but has already put a block on more of the team being sold abroad.

In the season just ended they never recovered from the loss of Brian Laudrup, who is set to be one of Europe's stars of the 1990's.

Inspired

They nevertheless qualified for the UEFA Cup by finishing second in the table, along with Lyngby, who were inspired by former international Klaus Berggreen. OB, a team without stars, won the title by virtue of consistency, and by virtue of surviving the loss of Lars Elstrup to Luton. Talk of amalgamation with other clubs in the city to create a Odense 'superclub' has now ended.

As the season ended in disappointment for the national side, so too did it for Denmark's most revered player, Allan Simonsen. He retired after a year in which his home-town club Vejle faded to finish fourth, just outside the Euro reckoning. And that was despite Preben Elkjaer putting on a late scoring burst when he recovered from injury. He showed enough of his old dynamism to perhaps persuade a club somewhere to part with their money this winter.

A new striking star from Denmark is also on his way abroad. Miklos Molnar, a 20-year-old from Frem, finished top of the scoring charts and was having trials with Lyon in France and Chelsea in England.

Allan Simonsen finally called it a day.

BULGARIA from BOB VAUGHAN

Stoichkov set for Barcelona

WITH just over a third of the championship played CFKA Sredets remain firmly in the driving seat after a 4-1 win over relegation threatened Dunav Ruse.

Stoitchkov – almost certainly a football export to Barcelona in the New Year – heads the scorers, on 15, better than a goal a game and two more than previous leader Michtarski of Vitosha.

Slavia, in second place, scraped home 2-1 over Lok Go but whether the country's oldest club has any chance of catching up five points on Sredets in the spring looks doubtful.

No other Sofia club will be within shouting distance with Lok only just off the bottom. Vitosha, currently in mid table, will be hard to find in the Euro results charts in the future.

In the wake of political and social 'evolution' football has not been spared. So welcome back Levski Sparta – the 'old name' for Vitosha which the club 'gained' following the notorious 1985 Cup Final with CSKA.

Bulgarian manager Ivan Vutzov received widespread criticism after the national side's 1-0 defeat in Greece.

At a press conference to air the club's problems, president Chakarov announced the decision which was quickly ratified by the directors. It is all the same to fans who have never given up calling their favourites by their old names.

Under fire on the international front is 'Teamchef' Vutzov following the disgraceful showing in Greece. There has been no regular rejuvenation of the national squad, two Baims aged 31 abd 29 have come back and those performing abroad are ignored.

SPAIN by GRAHAM TURNER

Clowns are the ring masters now

THE Spaniards have a saying which they apply to people blessed with permanently bad luck. "If he bought a circus," they say about these Midas-in-reverse, "the midgets would start growing."

And while no one is surprised to see the Big Boys, Atlético and Barcelona – playing leading roles in the Spanish circus, Messrs. Toshack, Cruyff and Clemente have watched in alarm as some of the league's midgets have grown in stature.

Valencia, Oviedo and Osasuna, working on fractions of Barcelona's record annual budget of £28 million all joined the Catalan club in second spot during December, and much of the credit must go to three coaches who can only daydream wide-eyed about Johan Cruyff's £15,000 a week plus bonuses, living allowances and car – which, by the way, was stolen from the car park at Barcelona airport several months ago and has now been located by police investigating a car theft-and-export racket ... in Lebanon.

The luxury Mercedes was registered as property of the hotel chain owned by Barcelona's vice-president Juan Gasport.

Such luxury Mercs and perks are beyond the reach of the three youngish coaches who are forging solid reputations on shoe-string budgets.

Meanest

Uruguayan coach Victor Espárrago won plaudits for taking Valencia into third place last season with the meanest defensive record in the first division. But when the 'Ches' opened the 1989-90 campaign with one point from three games, were thrashed 6-2 by John Toshack's Real Madrid and lost three international players (full-backs Quique Flores and Fernando Giner plus striker Eloy Olaya) the pundits reckoned last year's success had just been a flash in the paella pan.

Espárrago had other ideas. He switched midfielder Ferrando to join Arjas, Boro and Camarasa in the back four; gambled successfully on an unknown Brazilian striker called Toni, signed from provincial side San José, and added punch to the attack by signing Bulgarian star striker Luboslav Penev from CFKA Sofia.

Unfortunately. Penev overdid the punch and blotted his copybook by being sent off when Valencia were 0-2 up away to Rayo Vallecano and the Madrid side hit back to draw 2-2. Even so, Valancia hit second place in December having remained unbeaten since September 17.

At 45 Espárrago (born in Montevideo on October 6, 1944) has now established a solid reputation. An industrious, clear-thinking midfielder, he represented Uruguay in the 1966, 1970 and 1974 World Cups and after starring at Nacional of Montevideo he spent the rest of his career in Spain with Sevilla and then Huelva. He returned to Nacional to make his debut as a coach (winning a league title in the process), before heading back to Spain and doing creditworthy jobs at Huelva and Cádiz.

He took over the Valencia job 18 months ago after Alfredo di Stéfano had brought them up from the second division but had then narrowly avoided taking the lift back down with a rickety 14th position.

Javier Iruretagoyena, thankfully more widely known as Irureta, seems set to do a similar job at Oviedo, who came up with Valencia in 1988. Vicente Miera, currently picking up £6,500 a week for trying to keep newly-promoted Tenerife in the top bracket, laid the foundations last season when the Asturian side finished 12th.

Irureta strengthened his squad by signing two Barcelona rejects, midfielder Vinyals from Castellón and striker Carlos from Atlético Madrid, plus another striker Sarriugarte, offloaded by Howard Kendall recently dismissed by Bilbao. Yugoslav midfielder Gracan has also been added to an 'engine room' where

Sammy Lee

Berto, Bango and Vinyals have achieved a nice balance.

Irureta's sound work has been reflected in the call-up of central defender Luis Manuel, 22, by Luis Suárez for the 2-1 friendly win against Switzerland – the first Ovideo player to wear the red shirt of Spain for 16 years.

A former Real Unión of Irún, Atlético Madrid and Athletic Bilbao midfielder, Irureta has finally 'arrived' at the age of 41 (he was born on April Fool's Day 1948). He began his coaching career at Guecho, and then moved across Bilbao to take Sestao up into Division 2A and keep them there for three seasons.

His impressive record won him the job at first division Logronés last season, but when wine tycoon Marcos Eguizábal took over as president, his days were numbered, especially when the three South American signings, Ruggeri, Alzamendi and Cruz, complained he was working the squad too hard. Irureta was controversially sacked at the end of January with Logronés in 7th place.

Previously he had been short-listed for the job at Athletic Bilbao, but when the press suggested he was a militant in the 'wrong' Basque political party, the Bilbao board voted for Howard Kendall. In view of the job he's doing at Oviedo, Bilbao and Logronés are beginning to regret their decisions.

Those who reckon Lennie Lawrence should be England's Manager of the Year for his shoestring work at Charlton, would undoubtedly give their votes to Pedro Maria Zabalza, the boss Michael Robinson, Sammy Lee and now Ashley Grimes have grown to admire at Osasuna of Pamplona.

"He does a tremendous job," says Lee, "and he has certainly won the respect of the whole squad, which is not always easy when so many players don't get a game every week."

Zabalza, born in Pamplona on April 13th 1944, was a solid full-back for Gure-Txokoa, Oberena, Osasuna, Barcelona and Bilbao and was capped seven times by Spain. His only coaching experience had been four years in charge of the Osasuna Youth side when he was asked to step up midway through the 1986-87 season after the sacking of Yugoslav coach Ivan Brzic.

During the last three years, Zabalza has watched with impotence as the top clubs, season after season, have creamed off his top players. Barcelona snatched goalkeeper Unzué and striker Goicoechea (currently on loan to Real Sociedad). And the pundits augured a bleak 89-90 campaign when Michael Robinson's knee forced him to retire; Sammy Lee was sidelined with yet another long-term injury; and key players Bustingorri, Ripodas and Pizo Gómez were snapped up by Atlético Madrid and Bilbao.

Zabalza, however, brought through more youngsters from the Youth Scheme and signed Polish striker Jan Urban, who has become the idol of the wonderful fans at the El Sadar stadium.

Vinyals ... now at Oviedo

In the meantime, John Toshack was confirming that life at the top is less rewarding. His relations with the Madrid media hit rock bottom in December when, disgusted by some press comments, he refused to go ahead with routine press conferences and snapped "from now on, I will only speak to those reporters and media I think fit."

The Spanish Sportswriters' Association hit back with a communiqué announcing a boycott of the Real boss, and after Real had maintained their home scoring average with a 4-0 win over Valladolid, only two reporters from local sports daily *Marca* turned up for his press conference.

Meanwhile, national team manager Luis Suárez has had his contract extended until June 30th 1992 and his salary increased to £165,000 per year.

HOLLAND by SIMON KUPER

Roda ride the pressures

John Van Loen

BRIEFLY, a new name has been glimpsed at the top of the Dutch league.

Roda Kerkrade have surprised all by teasing PSV Eindhoven in the battle for the championship. Normally PSV, Ajax and Feyenoord occupy the first three places in the league by this stage of the season, but the problems affecting the Big Three have given Roda a chance.

This year Feyernood are somewhere near the bottom of the table, Ajax are recovering from a very poor start, and even PSV are dropping more pionts than usual. Earlier in the 1980s, PSV went five years without losing a league match at home: this season, Roda and Vitesse Arnhem have already won in Eindhoven. Vitesse's manager Bert Jacobs was so

WEST GERMANY by RINO LANDA

Bayern back on top

Alan McInally

BAYERN Munich returned to the top of the topsy-turvy Bundesliga thanks to a 3-1 defeat of Homburg, while the nation's three UEFA cup teams crashed to defeat.

Bayern's Scottish striker Alan McInally scored two goals and Yugoslav Radmilo Mihailovic hit the other but it was a match the defending champions were fortunate to win. Lowly Homburg had far more scoring chances than Bayern and were unlucky to find the net only once, through Argentine Sergio Maciel. The win left Munich level on 27 points from 20 games, level with Eintracht Frankfurt and Bayer Leverkusen but ahead on goal difference. Eintracht beat Fortuna Duesseldorf with second half goals frodm Uwe Bein and Relf Falkenmayer while Leverkusen drew 1-1 with Borussia Monchengladbach.

Shaken

Successful UEFA Cup teams Köln, Werder Bremen and Hamburg were shaken out of their euphoria. Cologne went down at home 1-0 to Bayer Uerdingen who scored through Siegfried Reich, Bremen fell 4-1 away to Borussia Dortmund whose goals came from Frank Mill, Norbert Dickel, Michael Lusch and Andy Moeller. New Zealander Wynton Rufer hit Werder's goal.

Hamburg couldn't repeat their UEFA Cup performance from Porto. At home to Bocho, Hamburg were four goals down after half an hour to Michael Rzehaczek (two), and Frank Benatelli and Uwe Leifeld. A goal by Detlev Dammeier in the 81st came much too late to appease Hamburg fans, most of whom had left Volkspark stadium in disgust midway through the second half.

GREECE

BONEV TAKES OVER

BEING top of the Greek first division does not guarantee fan suppport or serenity on the team.

Panathinaikos found out that cruel fact. Despite its first place showing in mid-November, the club finds itself struggling with poor attendance figures and with a new coach trying to patch things up among players.

The trouble with Panathinaikos began when the team owned by the richest men in Greece, the oil-tycoon Vardinoyannis brothers, lost at home to Dinamo Bucharest 2-0 in the second round of the Champions' Cup and then were whipped 6-1 in Romania in one of the worst losses ever by the club.

"The talent we have is worthy of much better results," said president George Vardinoyannis. "I can't explain the fact that such good players are not playing up to their potential."

Vardinoyannis decided to keep the players and axe the coach, replacing Sweden's Gunder Bengtson by Bulgaria's Christo Bonev.

Bonev seems to be doing well so far as Panathinaikos came away with a 2-0 victory at OFI (another club owned by the Vardinoyannis group) and a 3-1 win at home against Serres. The two wins lifted Panathinaikos to first place, one point ahead of AEK and Olympiakos.

It remains to be seen if the fans will start coming back to support Panathinaikos as only 10,000 fans showed up at the huge Athens Olympic Stadium to see their club defeat Serres.

Olympiakos are doing well and bringing in the fans after an easy 4-0 triumph over PAOK before 35,000.

surprised and delighted that he rode a bicycle into a discotheque in Arnhem.

Yet it would be unfair to Roda to attribute their success entirely to the failings of others. Jan Reker has assembled an attractive, powerful young side in Kerkrade, with mainstays in defender Henk Fraser, 23, midfielders Michel Broeders, 21, and Alfons Groenendijk, 25, and striker John Van Loen, 24.

Fraser actually made his debut for Holland this September, in a friendly against Denmark, and he will probably be a member of Holland's squad for the World Cup in Italy. He is a real total footballer: he can attack and defend, is both athletic and strong, and intelligent as well as hard.

Tragedy

That means that Roda will be unable to keep him for long. The club are simply not as rich as Ajax and PSV, and so lose their best players to them. As a result, Ajax and PSV are always the only clubs who can win the championship. This, as much as football hooliganism, is the tragedy of Dutch football.

On the subject of hooliganism, it is worth qualifying a remark reported in all the English papers. Arie van Eijden, Ajax's general manager, was quoted as saying that with bombs being thrown all the time, Dutch league football should be abandoned for six months. However, Van Eijden was not suggesting this seriously. "I was speaking rhetorically," he says. "I only wanted to show how powerless we are now."

Henk Fraser

It is almost impossible that hooliganism could put an end to football in Holland. A couple of years ago some politicians were in favour of abandoning the game, but they changed their minds after Holland won the European Championship in June 1988. An actual majority of the population went out onto the streets to celebrate, and this showed the government how much football means to many Dutchmen.

POLAND by BOB VAUGHAN

Katowice in the driving seat

Poland's Cup Quarter Finals brought no further shocks – Katowice, Mielec and Legia winning through in the two leg ties as did Hutnik Krakow to prevent a complete 'Elite Class' sweep.

Admittedly Hutnik had to contend only with Chemik Police – hardly a major club!

In the League at the half-way stage Katowice led by two points from Lublin with Chorzów on third.

The last autumn round of matches was played in shocking conditions more suitable for winter sports. Katowice and Widzew Lodz, cup quarter final opponents, met again and the Upper Silesians again had the upper hand, this time by a single goal.

It put Katowice at the top and Widzew at the bottom of the table until soccer resumes in the spring. Strojek's fine individual effort took the points.

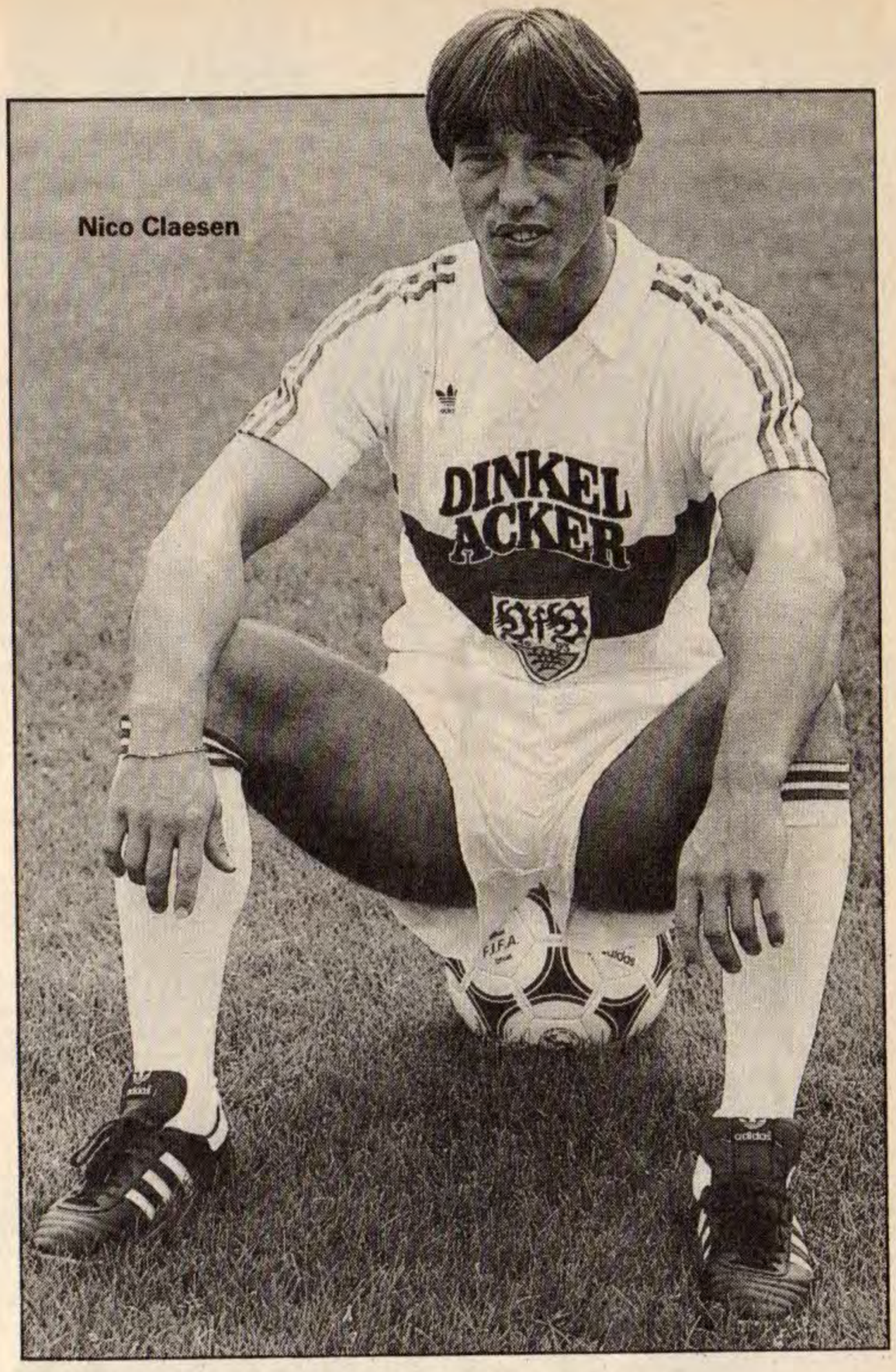
The in-form team have been Wisla who started the season badly but in recent weeks have accounted for both Ruch and Legia by three goal margins. Fifth-placed Lech Poznan are another club to show improvement, in a home draw with Legia. Jozkowiak put Lech ahead from the spot but Iwanicki managed an equaliser near the end for the army club.

Gornik, who have been in crisis, following defeats by Lech and Katowice, had some consolation by taking two goals and two points from Motor Lublin but are only seventh.

Goalscorer Jozkowiak

BELGIUM by IAIN MACLEOD

Belgians can spare a smile



Nico Claesen

WHEN the league season closed down on December 20, to give players and coaches the traditional three-week break, Belgium could reflect comfortably on a year in which the nation restored much of the international credibility to which it had become accustomed in the first half of the decade.

It is almost ten years since Belgium became an international force. Under the shrewd guidance of coach *Guy Thys*, and with a superbly organised defence well versed in the offside trap, Belgium took advantage of the general dreariness of the times to counter-attack their way to second place at the 1980 European Championships.

It signalled the start of a resurgence in Belgian fortunes. They even had the gall to beat holders Argentina, in the opening match of the 1982 World Cup finals where, uncharacteristically, the defence went to pieces in the second round and a Boniek hat-trick for Poland ended Belgium's interest in the competition.

The bribes scandal which hit only four months prior to the 1984 European Championships, proved the darkest months in the nation's long football history. The shame was compounded by the loss of virtually the entire defence and the championships were of only academic interest.

Amnesty

But Thys soon regrouped his forces, assisted somewhat dubiously by an amnesty for some of the players involved. In Mexico, four years ago, Belgium, founder members of FIFA in 1904, rose to unprecedented heights to finish a creditable fourth – a remarkable achievement for such a small nation.

After a disappointing qualifying campaign for last year's European Championships, Thys again shrewdly introduced some new faces while continuing to focus the team on the tireless veteran, Jan Ceulemans.

Thys retired recently on the occasion of his 100th international match at the helm. The new coach is assistant Walter Meeuws, the former international sweeper and, ironically, one of the central figures in the infamous bribes scandal.

Thys had finished his life's work by guiding Belgium to within sight of World Cup qualification. Thys, like Rinus Michels in Holland, now has an advisory role with the Belgian FA but, having seen Meeuws's appointment pass without much criticism, even he must have been surprised at the turn of events in recent weeks.

Meeuws began well enough; a 3-0 home defeat of Portugal virtually guaranteed the Diables Rouges' ticket to Italy. However, it proved a short honeymoon and, as Belgium struggled to emerge with a fortuitous point against Switzerland in Basle, there was worse to follow. The ultimate indignity occurred in Belgium's final match against the last of the genuine amateurs, Luxembourg. Belgian commentators scathingly ranked the 1-1 draw as the worst match they'd ever seen.

Galvanising the squad for the World Cup finals should not be beyond Meeuws. The squad is highly experienced and, with Belgian representation in the major European club competitions still intact, confidence is generally high.

On the domestic scene, Anderlecht's tremendous aggregate victory over Barcelona in the second round of the Recopa, emphasised the good work being done by new coach Aad de Mos, even if the bubble did burst shortly afterwards.

The on-going battle between champions Mechelen, and cup holders, Anderlecht, coached respectively by Dutchmen, Ruud Krol and Aad de Mos, has developed into a fascinating duel which has swung one way, then the other.

Krol's appointment as Mechelen coach still causes resentment in some areas of the press, who have been quick to capitalise on his unfamiliarity with some aspects of the club.

Muddled

When, for instance, Mechelen went to Sweden for the first leg of their European Cup second round match against Malmo, Krol, at the pre-match press conference was asked to explain what the KV stood for, his muddled answer merely proved to be more fodder for the critics.

Still, if his pedigree as a coach is as yet largely unproven, he has not, as some had suggested before the season, become the captain of a ship that seemed destined to sink.

On the contrary, while Anderlecht hogged most of the early-season head-lines, Mechelen, in steady but unspectacular fashion, have matched the more affluent Brussels outfit step for step.

With both sides safely through to the quarter-finals of the two major European club tournaments, the battle for domestic supremacy took a couple of unexpected twists when Anderlecht surprisingly lost on consecutive weekends.

On the weekend prior to the return European games, Anderlecht emerged smelling of roses. As Mechelen contented themselves with a goalless draw at Lokeren, the mauve and whites were enjoying the adulation of a rapturous Parc Astrid crowd, more than happy with the 3-0 drubbing of Kortrijk.

So, after ten games the two main contenders for the title were still unbeaten; the only noticeable difference between them was that Anderlecht's greater commitment to attacking football gave them the edge by two points.

After an unsteady start, Club Brugge edged up into third place after a convincing 3-1 victory at Waregem. But, Antwerp had also been making steady progress, and the following week went to the Olympiapark and dented Brugge's challenge for the title.

After a goalless first-half, Czerniatynski struck for the visitors after 56 minutes. Antwerp were much the better team and *Nico Claesen's* goal two minutes from the end gave them a thoroughly deserved victory which pulled them up into equal third place.

But the big match of the day, indeed of the season so far was at Mechelen, where a capacity crowd gathered to see which of the Dutch coaches would claim first blood.

In the event honours were shared. Anderlecht were marginally the better

● TURN TO PAGE 62

REP of IRELAND by SEAN CREEDON

Bohemians end Young reign

BILLY Young's reign as the longest serving Manager in the League of Ireland is over.

Young, who had been in charge of Bohemians since August 1973, was sacked before Christmas. There have been several attempts in the past to get rid of Young, who won the Championships only twice in his 16 years in charge at Dalymount Park.

But a change of personnel on the Bohemians Management Committee in this their Centenary Year saw Young get the chop after another bad run. Padraig O'Connor, who was Young's assistant, has now got the job until the end of the season.

Meanwhile Home Farm's Under-16s are maintaining their unbeaten run. They have not lost a game in domestic competition since December 1983 and at the time of writing had gone 190 games without defeat. However, the team seems destined to break up at the end of this season. Most of the lads, who have played together since they were under 10, have been on trial with English clubs.

Billy Hamilton, the former Northern Ireland international has joined Sligo Rovers as a player. Hamilton said he was disillusioned with League of Ireland football when he quit as player-manager of Limerick City earlier in the season.

This season's FAI Cup Final will be played at Lansdowne Road on Sunday May 13. Since 1922 the FAI Cup Final has been played at Dalymount Park. Seems a strange decision by the FAI to rent Lansdowne from the Irish Rugby Football Union for the Cup Final now that they have bought Dalymount Park from Bohemians.

Lansdowne of course has better seating and facilities, but unless Derry City reach the Cup Final the attendance will be 'lost' at the Rugby Union headquarters.

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IATA

THE BIG DERBIES

Bebeto holds off Flamengo's Leonardo but the Vasco striker was out of luck against his old team-mates.

BEBETO – Jose Roberto Gama de Oliveira – could fall out of bed this morning, get stuck in the lift for three hours, reverse his car into the garage wall and write off the vehicle, come home to find his flat is on fire ... and still not have a worse day than he had when he confronted his former Flamengo team-mates for the first time since his controversial move to Vasco in July.

Bebeto was marked out of the game, hardly got a touch of the ball and then was sent off in the second half for fighting with Flamengo goalkeeper Zé Carlos. Flamengo completed his misery by winning 2-0.

Flamengo, on the other hand, would probably not have exchanged this victory for anything. Because of the Bebeto transfer, rivalry between the two clubs had been even more intense than usual in the previous three months.

Although the longest running derby is Flamengo-Fluminense, (Vasco was founded in the 1920s) it is Flamengo and Vasco who have the biggest followings and who have been the city's most successful clubs in recent years.

Imagine how the Flamenguistas must have felt, therefore, when they saw their most prized player – he had been the club's top scorer for the last four seasons – join their bitterest rivals.

Flamengo would never have sold Bebeto to Vasco willingly. However, when the player's contract expired in June, the Flamengo directors, believing that no other Brazilian club could afford him, refused to meet his demands for its renewal and said that anyone who deposited the equivalent of £300,000 in the Rio state federation could have him.

Had they known that the Vascainos were prepared to cough up, they would certainly have acted differently. Vasco president, Antônio Soares Calçada, had already been in contact with Bebeto's agent, José Moraes, but, knowing what Flamengo would think about Vasco going to his club, kept the negotiations secret.

Twice he had dinner with Flamengo president Gilberto Cardoso Filho and on both occasions he said that his club were not interested.

On July 24, Cardoso and his board finally discovered what was happening and immediately agreed to meet Bebeto's terms. But by that time it was too late. The player had already signed for Vasco having deposited the money in the federation himself (it had been lent to him by Vasco).

The whole business predictably led to a series of accusations, counter-accusations and cheap insults between the directors of the two clubs, with Cardoso describing Vasco director Eurico Miranda as a "safado" (roughly meaning someone who has no shame).

It also set both clubs off on a frenzy of buying, often with both of them after the same players. It was Vasco who continued to have the upper hand, purchasing Andrade from Roma, Tita from Pescara, Luiz Carlos Winck from Internacional (of Porto Alegre) and, the most surprising and enterprising move, Equadorian defender Holgar Quiñonez from Barcelona of Guayaquil.

Given that Vasco already had Mazinho (one of the stars of the Copa America) and Bismark in their line-up, they ended up with what was on paper by far the strongest side in the Copa União.

The presence of Bebeto and Tita raised questions over the behaviour of Miranda, who in addition to his position with Vasco is also a director of the CBF. He was accused of taking advantage of his double role by approaching players in the national team's concentration during the Copa America and World Cup qualifiers and

UNHAPPY RETURNS

FLAMENGO 2

From BRIAN HOMEWOOD in Rio de Janeiro

offering them contracts with Vasco.

The magazine *Placar* claimed that it had been Miranda who had done most of the negotiating with Bebeto in Brazil's hotel. It also accused him of approaching Josimar, Andre Cruz, Mauro Galvão and Charles.

Flamengo meanwhile had managed to get some revenge for the loss of Bebeto by buying two of the players that Vasco had been after – André Cruz and Josimar. To this they added Junior from Pescara, Argentinian Claudio Borghi from Argentinos Juniors and Renato from Roma – though it is doubtful as to whether the last investment was wise as there are many who do not believe that Renato's occasional brilliance makes up for his excessive individualism and suspect temperament.

As it turned out, three of the contractions back-fired. André Cruz was unable to play as Vasco, claiming that he had already signed for them, managed to get an order suspending him from the first half of the competition. Borghi was badly out of form and ended up in the reserves. And manager Telê Santana resigned halfway through the first round of the Copa União after having problems with Renato, who himself was injured shortly afterwards and sidelined for the rest of the year.

Not surprisingly, Flamengo suffered a series of bad results and not even the arrival of Valdir Espinosa, the man who brought Botafogo their first title in 21 years, to replace Santana could improve the situation.

Most Flamenguistas blamed Cardoso for the debacle. He had become president in April and almost immediately the team lost the final of the Rio state championship to Botafogo. Three months later and the club had seen the departures of Jorginho and Aldair as well as Bebeto, with Cardoso being widely held as responsible for the loss of the latter.

The president was then struck by the syndrome that seems to affect nine out of every ten football directors in Brazil – trying to achieve success overnight instead of planning ahead and thinking of the future.

The new signings had an air of panic about them – Borghi, for example, was heralded as the saviour of the club and mobbed by fans when he arrived in Rio, whereas the truth was that he had been out of form for some time.

Cardoso would have been better off if he had worried less about winning the 1989 Copa União and allowed his manager to give some of the club's younger players – such as Rogério, Bujica and Renato Carioca – a chance instead. If he had bothered to look back a few years, he would have discovered that when Flamengo won the World Club championship in 1981, eight members of the team had come up through the club's junior divisions.

Favourites

By the time the two clubs met at the start of the second round of the Copa União, Vasco were the clear favourites. Although they had put out their first-choice line-up for the first time only a week before, they were still second in their group with a good chance of qualifying for the final. Flamengo went into the game having suffered successive defeats against São Paulo, Inter de Limeira and Portuguesa.

The bad feeling between the directors of the two clubs worsened in the week before the match when Marcio Braga claimed that the only way to mark Bebeto was with violence. Braga is a director of Flamengo and a member of the Brazilian Congress and, in making this remark, showed he was not fit to hold either position.

Fortunately, the directors' example was not followed by the supporters. The game attracted over 73,000 – the biggest crowd of the competition at the time – but the fans were well segregated, there was absolutely no trouble and the crowd in general was an example to so-called civilised countries such as England.

In fact, when the Maracanã stadium is reasonably full (73,000 is still less than half of its capacity), the crowd is a spectacle in itself. Both sets of 'torcidas organizadas' have their own samba bands which beat out an infectious rhythm throughout the entire game.

The stadium has around 20 store rooms where supporters clubs of Flamengo, Fluminense, Botafogo and Vasco can leave their drums and flags.

The teams' arrival is greeted with showers of ticker tape and confetti, although there were no fireworks for obvious reasons. Before the Rojas incident, it had been common for dozens of fireworks and firecrackers to be let off but there was never any case of them being aimed at players.

The CBF must have been thinking that it was Christmas already as they let in over 14,000 people without paying. Some of the freebees went to children, a worthy cause, but the majority went to directors of federations, their friends and relatives, which is not a worthy cause at all.

Naturally, nearly all of the attention surrounded Bebeto who had been quoted as saying that Flamengo was still close to his heart, that he had only left because of Cardoso and that this was a day that he had been dreading. Flamengo decided to give some of their younger players a try and brought in Alcindo, Bujica and Luís Carlos. The task of marking Bebeto was given to Junior.

The only good news for Flamengo was that Zico, now 36, was fit to play. He has still not retired although it seemed that this Copa União would definitely be his last competition and this match his last Flamengo-Vasco derby. It was against Vasco that he made his professional debut in 1971 and against Vasco that he scored his first professional goal in 1973.

The game kicked of four minutes late, which is early by Brazilian standards, and the opening half hour was typical of Copa União matches this year and a good illustration of why people are so reluctant to go to football matches in Brazil.

While the play was not particularly violent, virtually every time a player took the ball past an opponent, he was fouled. And every time a player wanted to take a free kick, someone from the other team would stand over the ball and try and stop him. If the basketball or American football system of timing had been used, we would have been there until the next ice age.

Referee Luis Carlos Felix must have had a live pirana fish in his pocket ecause he showed an incredible reluctance to put his hand in there and pull out the yellow card, something which might have put a stop to all the nonsense.

In the 30th minute Flamengo took a surprise lead. Alcindo broke down the left, Acacio was unable to hold his shot and Bujica scored from the rebound.

In the second half the crowd were treated to some vintage Zico and Junior, the former dominating the midfield and showing vision and first-time touches that were out of the ordinary. Both players were involved in Flamengo's second goal, scored on the break in the 57th minute.

Junior broke up a Vasco attack and quickly released Alcindo on the right, Zico made a run inside the defender, took Alcindo's pass in his stride and crossed for Bujica to score his second.

Almost immediately there was a fight between Bebeto and Zé Carlos. The latter had grabbed the ball to stop Bebeto taking a free kick and was kicked for his pains. Both were rightly sent off. This meant that Flamengo had to re-shuffle their team, taking off Luis Carlos and bringing on reserve goalkeeper Zé Carlos Paulista.

Vasco tried desperately to reduce the deficit and both Tita and Bismark missed good chances. But there seemed more chance of Flamengo increasing their lead, which they nearly did on three occasions. The last effort was from Zico four minutes from the end when a 25-yard shot went wide of the post.

Bitter

For the Vascainos, the defeat was doubly bitter in that it seriously damaged their chances of winning group B and therefore qualifying for the final. Maybe they would be better off adopting the 3-5-2 system that Sebastião Lazaroni has so successfully implanted on the national team.

Mazinho, for example, made hardly any of the overlapping runs that made him so impressive during the Copa America. Their only consolation was that in Quiñonez, they have found an exceptional defender.

There were two heroes on the Flamengo side: Bujica, who earns only £55 a month, and Zico, who told reporters after the game that Vasco had been overconfident beforehand and this had motivated the Flamengo players.

And he had some advice for Bebeto: "I'm sue that he will recover and bring a lot of enjoyment to the fans of Brazil and the fans of Vasco. But he will have to learn that there is more to life than Flamengo v Vasco."

FOR BEBETO

VASCO DA GAMA 0

Flamengo's Luis Carlos heads towards Vasco's goal

MATCH STATS

Flamengo 2 (Bujica 30 and 57)
Vasco 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 73,681 (Receipts: £64,020)

***Flamengo*: Zé Carlos, Josimar, Junior, Fernando, Leonardo, Ailton, Zico, Zinho, Luis Carlos (Zé Carlos Paulista), Alcindo, Bujica (Nando). Manager: Valdir Espinosa.**

***Vasco*: Acácio, Luiz Carlos Winck, Leonardo, Quiñonez, Mazinho, Zé do Carmo, Andrade Vivinho), Marco Antônio Boiadero (Willian), Tita, Bebeto, Bismark. Manager: Nelsinho**

LETTERS

Denmark's sad exit

Sir, – I'm writing on behalf of all true soccer fans who surely must be disappointed at Denmark's exit from the World Cup Finals at the hands of Rumania.

Anyone who saw the World Cup qualifiers in Copenhagen against Greece and later against Rumania would agree with me that Denmark would have been a great asset to the World Cup. With players such as Flemming Polvsen and the Laudrup brothers up front and the dynamic left foot of Jan Bartram controlling midfield, Denmark are capable of beating just about anyone.

Unfortunately their goal-hungry style of play let them down in the end.

With Denmark only needing a draw to guarantee them a place in the World Cup Finals, for them to lose 3-1 seems to indicate that they let themselves down through their quest for more goals and greater security.

Denmark are, of course, not the only entertaining side not going to Italy. France and Portugal, too, are capable of playing eye-catching, crowd pleasing football.

It's unfortunate that teams who play the most entertaining football don't always get the best results.

JOHN BLOM, Wright Close, Heathcote, NSW.

The brilliance of Michael Laudrup will be missed in Italy.

Silly Chile

Villain – Rojas.

Sir, – Having recently visited Brazil I was fortunate to be able to go to the Brazil-Chile match and was annoyed by Mr. Rozzi's letter in the November edition.

While in total agreement that dangerous objects thrown at players can not be tolerated, I can not agree that Chile were right to abandon the match.

Recent events at European club matches such as an iron bar being thrown at a player obviously warrants severe action. Surely, however, only one firework let off by an excited fan in the whole match doesn't constitute unacceptable crowd behaviour.

There's a difference between throwing an object deliberately at someone and letting off a firework which frankly can land anywhere. The chances of aiming that firework are miniscule.

Anyway, if it could be done why would a Brazilian fan aim at the opposing goalkeeper when his team was 1-0 up?

Surely it would only be used if the team was 1-0 down hence giving the team a 'chance' by getting the match abandoned. The only effect the incident had was to give Chile the chance to walk off the pitch. I was directly behind the goal and the flare missed the goalkeeper by a good five feet. What then followed can only be described as an Oscar winning performance by Rojos. FIFA correctly punished the goalkeeper's 'unacceptable' behaviour, it was not the crowd that was unacceptable.

S. POTTER, Lingfield, Surrey

Stop whining

Sir, – Regarding Steve Lee's letter in the September issue of World Soccer. I can't believe that people like him are still whining about England's loss to Argentina in the 1986 World Cup.

Even if Maradona had scored with his hands; England still could have won the game if they had scored three goals. But then again, it seems to me that England haven't scored three goals in a soccer game against a strong team since Queen Victoria was in power.

MITCHELL KLINGER, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada.

Play fair, linesmen

Sir, – There is something going on which is very wrong by officials in the game the world over.

When a linesman notices an offence during a game he is liable to signal for a free-kick and the referee gives it usually – even penalty offences.

But if it comes the other way about i.e. the referee gives a free-kick and the linesman can clearly see that there was no offence he will not indicate this to the referee.

I think that when this happens and it involves a penalty the linesman should signal to the referee to inform him that he had a clear view and that it wasn't a penalty.

At present we have the undesirable situation where a set of the aggrieved players have to run over to the linesman and ask him if he saw that it wasn't a penalty and on occasions this results in the referee being called over and the decision being reversed.

A good example of what I mean was during the recent match between Austria and East Germany which ended 3-0 to Austria. The second Austrian goal coming from the penalty spot after an East German player was adjudged to have fouled his opponent as he ran with the ball inside the penalty area.

I think it is likely that the linesman clearly saw what I clearly saw; that it was a clean tackle.

Another case in point is the hand ball goal scored by Maradona in the World Cup in Mexico against England.

JOHN GOSLING, Morple, Stockport.

British pride

Sir, – I was delighted by the recent letter from Mr. Steve Lee (August 1989 World Soccer) in which he spoke so eloquently in favour of English football, and against the cavilling complaints of its critics.

I'd only like to expand the scope of praise to include all of the "British Isles". Scotland, Wales, and the two Irelands have always sent hordes of players to English clubs; nowadays the English are beginning to return the favour (to Rangers, at last).

Scottish clubs, and even Welsh clubs, have done great things in Europe over the past 25 years. And the five countries, taken as a whole, are just now concluding their most successful decade of internationals since the 1930s.

For far too long, there's been far too much moaning, wailing, and breast-beating about the "sorry" state of British football. It dates back to at least 1953, and perhaps even 1929.

Apparently, the other countries aren't ever allowed to develop good teams. If you lose, it's your own fault ... not the other guy's skill. If you're not champions, you're nothing. This sort of thinking pervades the American sports scene, too. It is utter nonsense.

The British did dominate world football from 1870 to 1950. Anyone who'd question the latter date should remember that between 1934 and 1950, "World Champions" Italy were 0-1-3 v England; and then there was the special match in 1947 when Britain thrashed Europe 6-1. No one can be that dominant today: there's just too much good football being played throughout the world. The British share remains large, but Britain can't have it all. Of course, the Minister Against Sport doesn't want Britain to have any; but even FIFA and UEFA are beginning to recognise that there are hooligans everywhere.

Everyone has good points and bad points, ups and downs. If there's still an excess of "up and under" in Britain, at least it's clean and honest football. The Italians and South Americans may win World Cups and Intercontinental Cups. But even when they're not playing catenaccio, or inventing new forms of cheating and brutality, they can still bore a fan to tears. I watched nearly every match of this year's Copa America; there were flashes of brilliance, but mostly it was soporific stuff – even from the great Maradona.

I'm not saying we should be complacent. Everything can be improved. But can't we ever take some pride in the good things that do exist in British football?

JOHN DICKINSON, Paulina, Chicago.

The 'hand of God' strikes against England.

Stanley Matthews – a legend in his own lifetime.

VIDEO REVIEW

FOOTBALL videos are in danger of saturating their own market. Out of the many which are around at the moment World Soccer's attention has been caught by four which contain more than the usual string of goalmouth cliches:

From Virgin Vision comes The World's Greatest Players, an hour-long compilation of ten players who would probably feature on most experts' list of the all-time superstars. World Soccer readers may be especially interested in the historical Champions' Cup action featuring Alfredo Di Stefano as well as the 1954 World Cup material.

From Rangers Football Club comes perhaps the best of the club videos, Rangers Champions 1988-89, which deals in the goals and the action but also illustrates the glory and the controversy with inter-cut interviews.

From the BBC, comes 25 Years of Match of the Day: Part 1 which contains a fascinating – and sadly truncated – review of the start of English TV soccer coverage. It also goes a long way, without saying quite as much, to illustrate how the later much-maligned Kenneth Wolstenholme set a new style for sports commentary.

Finally, from Sporting Gems/ Worldmark Productions comes Maradona: The Greatest Player in the World? The highlight in Director Ken McGill's portrait is the opening sequence of Argentine film showing the 12-year-old Maradona juggling the ball in typical style and telling the camera that he wanted to be the greatest player in the world and to win the World Cup.

History, indeed, in the making.

BOOKS

STANLEY MATTHEWS is one of that small band of national and international personalities whose reputation fully justifies the epithet of 'a legend in his own lifetime'.

It says much for his enduring fame that, in a soccer book market dominated by club statistics and player 'diaries', Matthews is still being celebrated in a first authorised biography.

Every article and feature written talks of the Matthews modesty. It's almost a cliche. It also happens to be true. A few moments of Sir Stan's time is a world away from the current game in which debate centres on whether or not players who fight on the pitch should face police action.

Reading the account of biographer David Miller in Stanley Matthews: The Authorised Biography (Pavilion Books, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JL; price £12.95) of the infamous Battle of Highbury in 1934 it's clear enough that ferocity on the pitch has changed little over the years. What has changed since the heyday of Stanley Matthews is the materialistic emphasis attached to victory and defeat.

David Miller has spent several years preparing this book. It appears neatly in time for the subject's 75th birthday and his return to live in England. The book is worthy of the man and the player. Nothing more. Nothing less.

* IRREVERENCE also has its place in the game. Offside, a sort of alternative football annual from When Saturday Comes (1-11 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QM; price £5.95) is an amusing, thought-provoking compilation ideally suited to those moments of post-Christmas dinner indolence.

PEN PALS

18-YEAR-OLD SOCCER FAN seeks pen pals from Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand and Eastern Europe. Hobbies are music, travelling, reading and exchanging soccer memorabilia. Please write to: Gary Morrow, 7 Princess Gardens, Cloughmills, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland BT44 9LQ.

COLLECTOR OF FOOTBALL MAGAZINES would like to correspond with fellow collectors worldwide. Letters in English, German, Polish or Russian to: Algis Cerneckis, 235030 Kedainiai, PO Box 65, Lithuania, USSR.

RUSSIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER FAN, 22, wishes to correspond with British supporters. Please write to: Metalnikou Maxim, Planetnaya Street 47-133, 125319 Moscow. USSR.

27-YEAR-OLD MALE seeks pen pals worldwide. Hobbies include all sports and travelling. Write to: Jason Vining, 16 New Orleans Crescent, Maroubra NSW 2035, Australia.

ENGLISH BOY, 13, would like to correspond with soccer fans, male or female, from all over the world to swap information, results etc. Write to: Neil McDonnell, 41 Hector Street, Plumstead, London SE18 1QT.

NORWEGIAN BOY, 15, supports Viking and Liverpool, would like pen pals all over the world to swap results, information etc. Write to: Bjorn Kjos-Hanssen, Sommerstien 7, N-4041 Hafrsfjord, Norway.

ENGLISH FOOTBALL FAN, 17, would like pen pals from USSR,Italy, Spain, France and W. Germany. Exchange of shirts, programmes and information etc. Please write to: Karl Beeden, 40 Ashley Road, St Annes-on-Sea, Lancashire, England FY8 3EL.

MOROCCAN STUDENT, 20, seeks male or female pen pals from England, America and Germany. Hobbies are listening to music, reading and swimming. Please write to: Rhnane Hicham, Rue 6 no. 30 Erak, Kenitra, Morocco.

MOROCCAN MALE, 20, interested in football and travel would like pen pals worldwide. Please write to: Ghalli Aziz, Pam 2 Groupe 102, No 1, Kenitra, Morocco.

Forest's Nigel Clough.

YOUNG NIGERIAN SOCCER FAN who supports Nottingham Forest, Bayern Munich, England, Nigeria and Uruguay seeks pen pals male and female. Please write to: Mark Oragan, 11B Ijesha Road Itire, Surulere, Lagos, Nigeria.

SPANISH SOCCER FAN would like to hear from football fans all over the world. Please write to Mario San Emeterio, C/Uirgen de la Paloma, No 3-3o, 39007, Santander, Spain.

EXCHANGES

YUGOSLAV MALE wishes to swap metal lapel badges of Yugoslavian League clubs and other clubs from around the world. Contact C. Eng. Jan S. Tosic, M. Tita, 115/2, 35000 SV/Pivara, Yugoslavia.

SPANISH COLLECTOR wishes to exchange world football videos with people from Sweden, Portugal, Uruguay, Colombia and Brazil. Contact Emilio Torrente, Rozalen, Avenida, San Juan de la Salle, Parque Torredamar, Seville, Spain.

HAVE TO SELL all Brazil matches from 1989 in PAL and NTSC VHS system. Exchange pennants and shirts around the world. Write in English to: Brazil Matches, Rua Amapa 595 – Santa Vitoria, Pitangueiras S.P. 14.750, Brazil.

RED STAR BELGRADE FAN wishes to exchange photos, scarves and videos. Please write to: Bob Stojkovic, Nemanjina 2/51, 16000 Leskovac, Srbija, Yugoslavia.

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DIARY

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

ISRAEL: Colombia manager Francisco Maturana says: "I have faith in what my players can do," on the eve on their World Cup play-off return against Israel in Tel-Aviv. Unusually nowadays, he names his line-up a day in advance, with first leg match-winner Uzurriaga among the substitutes.

ARGENTINA: Independiente thrash Chaco For Ever 7-1, River Plate win 3-1 away to Deportivo Espanol but Boca lose 1-0 at home to Platense.

BELGIUM: A cup thriller sees Standard beat Club Brugge 3-2. Anderlecht win 1-0 away to Cercle.

DENMARK: OB are confirmed as new champions, winning their last match 2-1 away to Frem. Brondby and Lungby are three points adrift in second and third places.

GREECE: Two goals in the last ten minutes bring OFI a 2-0 away win over promoted Xanthl and keep them top of the table, one point ahead of AEK who beat Panionios 7-1 thanks to four goals from Portuguese forward Daniel Batista.

HOLLAND: PSV beat RKC 3-0 in Walwijk to pull level on points with Roda and squeeze back into the championship leadership on goal difference. Boarebach, Povlsen and Gillhaus score the goals. Hungarian Pal Fischer scores twice in Ajax's 4-0 win at Haarlem. Feyenoord's match against Den Haag, due to be played behind closed doors, is postponed until Wednesday for fear of crowd trouble.

HUNGARY: MTK and Ujpest both win 3-0 – against Vasas and Holades Szombathely respectively – to stay first and second in the league, albeit level on points.

ITALY: Napoli are yet again rescued by Maradona. Genoa outplay the league leaders, who have Brazilian Alemao sent off, but Maradona equalises with a penalty on the hour.

NORWAY: In the cup final, Viking Stavanger (coached by Swedish team chief Benny Lennartsson, beat Molde 2-1.

PORTUGAL: Benfica's Swedish striker, Mats Magnusson, hits a hat-trick in the 5-0 win over Portimonense.

SPAIN: Real Madrid thrash Sevilla 5-2, thanks to four second-half goals, to set themselves up in style for the Champions' Cup return against Milan. Madrid remain two points ahead of Oviedo.

SWEDEN: Norrkoping beat Orebro 3-0 to qualify for the league play-off final against Malmo. Norrkoping beat Orebro 1-0 in the first leg.

SWITZERLAND: Chile's Ivan Zamorano is again in devastating form. This time he hits a shot just under the bar with two minutes left which brings St Gallen a 3-2 win over Servette.

TURKEY: Trabzonspor's 3-0 win at Konyaspor keeps them top of the table, two points ahead of Fenerbahce.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

ACTION: Colombia force a goalless draw with Israel in Tel-Aviv to qualify on a 1-0 play-off aggregate for the World Cup finals.

BELGIUM: Controversial national boss Walter Meeuws receives a vote of confidence from the federation in the wake of the World Cup flop against Luxembourg in Brussels, when Belgium were held 1-1.

BRAZIL: A Brazilian holiday company advertises its World Cup packages by showing a picture of 'injured' Chilean goalkeeper Roberto Rojas and over-printing: "Some people will do anything to get to the World Cup."

KUWAIT: Joso Havelange defends the four-strong UK representation within FIFA. The world federation's president tells the Friendship Games organisers: "We have a historic arrangement concerning these associations and, as long as I am president of FIFA, we will honour it."

YUGOSLAVIA: The federation decides it will support an appeal by French-based Mehmet Bazdarevic against his one-year international ban for spitting at a referee in the autumn World Cup qualifier against Norway.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

ACTION: In the UEFA Cup second round, second legs, Auxerre beat RoPs of Finland 3-0 (agg 8-0), Dundee United beat Antwerp 3-2 (but lose 6-3 on aggregate), FK Austria beat Werder Bremen 2-0 (but lose 5-2), Hamburg beat Zaragoza 2-0 and Liege beat Hibernian 1-0.

ITALY: Inter's West German midfield star Lothar Matthaus has an operaton on a torn ankle ligament and will miss the November World Cup qualifier . . . Milan officials say they expect Ruud Gullit to be fit to face Nacional of Colombia in the World Cup final . . . Napoli fans say they will raise enough cash to buy a replica of the Golden Boot awarded to Maradona for his starring role at the 1986 World Cup. The boot was stolen during a raid on a bank's strongroom . . . Victor Sottomayor, Argentine defender from Varona, is banned for four matches for misbehaviour.

PORTUGAL: Boavista's 18-year-old starlet Joao Pinto is signed by Atletico Madrid for £2million. He will switch to Madrid at the end of the season.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA brings sense to the closing stages of both World Cup groups three and six by ordering that their last matches start simultaneously.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

ACTION: Plenty of goals among the second round, second leg ties of the three European club competitions. Most notably, Benfica thrash Honved 7-0 in the Champions' Cup. But there is disappointment for Real Madrid, who beat Milan 1-0 and lose 2-1 on aggregate. Holders Barcelona are eliminated from the Cup-winners' Cup, beating Anderlecht 2-1 but losing 3-2 overall.

ITALY: Rudi Voller strains a right knee ligament, while training with his club, Roma. He may miss West Germany's decisive World Cup-tie against Wales.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

ACTION: In the one outstanding European tie, Olympiakos Piraeus 1, Foto Net Vienna 1.

EL SALVADOR: National team officials decide that, for the last important (albeit meaningless) World Cup qualifier El Salvador will have to rely on their top club side enmasse, rather than decide when they going to the Italy.

HOLLAND: In the previous weekend's postponed, closed doors games Feyenoord lose 2-0 at home to Den Haag.

ITALY: Diego Maradona is the subject of a police complaint after reports that he punched a 15-year-old following a training stint.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

ITALY: Fiorentina star Roberto Beggio calls a meeting with fans' leaders and warns them: "I've often defended you in the past. But if on Sunday there is any crowd trouble then I am walking off the pitch. If I hear one of those mindless 'Burn, Baby, Burn,' chants then I will demand to be substituted instantly."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

ENGLAND: Norwich and Arsenal appear likely to face disrepute charges after a mass punch-up at the end of their league match.

FRANCE: Marseille, despite the absence of injured skipper Jean-Pierre Papin, narrow the gap on leaders Bordeaux thanks to a 2-1 victory in Mulhouse.

HOLLAND: Roda beat Willem II by 2-0 thanks to two more goals from the midweek goals hero, Romario. The Brazilian also missed a penalty.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

ACTION: In the World Cup qualifiers the United States are held goalless at home in Fenton, Missouri, by El Salvador . . . at the Friendship Games in Kuwait, Iraq and Iran draw 0-0 in their first football meeting for 12 years . . . in Port of Spain Trinidad and Tobago warm up for their World Cup showdown with the United States by defeating Soviet first division side Zhalgiris Vilnius 4-2.

ARGENTINA: River Plate beat Velez Sarsfield 1-0 to stay one point clear of Independiente at the top.

ITALY: Diego Maradona, dropped in midweek by league leaders Napoli for turning up late for the UEFA Cup-tie with Wettingen, returns to duty and creates two goals in 11 first-half minutes in a 3-2 win over Lecce. After the match he flies to Buenos Aires for his million-pound wedding to common-law wife Claudia Villafane. Inter's Jurgen Klinsmann scores a hat-trick in a 3-0 win at Verona. But there is hooligan trouble with six fans injured and five arrested after fighting breaks out following Lazio's 2-1 home defeat by Atalanta.

PORTUGAL: Benfica beat Sporting 1-0 in the Lisbon derby but Porto go top thanks to a 3-0 win over Braga. Rui Aguas and Stefan Demol (two penalties) score the goals.

RUMANIA: Dinamo Bucharest suffer their first defeat of the season, losing 1-0 away to Craiova. But Dinamo stay top, one point clear of Steaua who are held goalless away to Bacau.

SPAIN: More upset for Real Madrid and more pressure on coach John Toshack, as the champions lose 2-1 away to Real Sociedad (Toshack's old club) for whom John Aldridge scores the first goal.

YUGOSLAVIA: Top two Red Star and Dinamo Zagreb score ten goals between them in maintaining their placings in the league. Red Star beat Rad 4-2 while Dinamo thrash Sarajevo 6-0.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

DENMARK: National boss Sepp Piontek surprisingly brings back veteran midfielder Soren Lerby into his squad.

ITALY: Milan midfielder Carlo Ancelotti is to undergo kneecap surgery but expects to be back in action within a month . . . three hooligan soccer fans are banned from matches for the rest of the season by a court after weekend trouble between Lazio and Atalanta . . . national manager Azeglio Vicini recalls Aldo Serena and Roberto Donadoni for the forthcoming friendlies against Algeria and England . . . Italian league players and showbiz stars are on board a chartered Boeing 747 which flies Diego Maradona and his hundreds of friends home for his wedding.

SWITZERLAND: Chile goalkeeper Roberto Rojas is accused by FIFA of the "biggest attempt at fraud in FIFA's history," over his 'collapse' during the World Cup-tie in Brazil.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: The FA denies American claims that it paid each El Salvador player £1,000 to make special efforts in the World Cup qualifer in Fenton.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

ACTION: Egypt beat Tunisia 4-0 in a Cairo friendly.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona gets married to Claudia – at last – in Buenos Aires. The million-pound event includes guests among the likes of President Carlos Maradona.

WS SERVICE CONDUCTED BY KEIR RADNEDGE

Marco Van Basten

FRANCE: Klaus Allofs scores the decisive goal as Bordeaux run up a 1-0 home win over Toulouse.

PORTUGAL: Belenenses name Brazilian Moises de Andrade as new coach.

SWEDEN: Sweden and IFK right back Roland Nilsson goes for a trial at Sheffield Wednesday.

SWITZERLAND: Urs Fischer of Sint-Gallen is the only newcomer in the Swiss squad for the academic World Cup qualifer against Luxembourg.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

ACTION: Trinidad and Tobago are beaten 1-0 by touring Soviet club Zhalgiris Vilnius before a 20,000 crowd in Port of Spain . . . Gremio and Boca Juniors draw no goals in their South American Supercup semi-final second leg.

BRAZIL: Pele says he would like to run for President of Brazil in 1994.

EL SALVADOR: Officials and players deny that any money changed hands before the US v El Salvador game.

SOVIET UNION: Dnepr's Alexei Cherednik is confirmed as a transfer target for Southampton.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

BELGIUM: Antwerp's Rudi Smidts is found not guilty by a court of assaulting a club official. Smidts had been arrested after the fan threw a beer glass at Smidts' girlfriend.

ENGLAND: Diego Maradona is voted Sportsman of the Decade by an English panel.

FRANCE: Auxerre sweeper Basil Boli is restored to the national squad for the World Cup qualifier against Cyprus.

ITALY: Maradona says he will quit Napoli unless president Corrado Feriaino can persuade him that the club really want him to stay. Maradona also announces "the longest press silence in history" in retaliation for newspaper criticism of the opulence of his wedding.

SPAIN: Manager Luis Suarez includes untried Luis Milla (Barcelona), Juanito Rodriguez (Zaragoza) and Valencia's Fernando Gomes in his World Cup squad to face Hungary.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA inflict a series of punishments on clubs and players. Worst hit are Greek club AEK, banned from European competition for a year because of fan misbehaviour at the Champions' Cup tie home to alcohol.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

GREECE: Dutchman Hank Houewart takes over as new coach of Ethnikos, replacing sacked Czechoslovak Petr Packert.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

ACTION: Italy beat Algeria 1-0 in a Vicenza friendly with a goal from Aldo Serena.

BRAZIL: The national squad sets out for Europe depleted by the refusal of European clubs to release the likes of stars in Italy, Spain, West Germany, France, Belgium and Holland.

FRANCE: Bordeaux beat struggling Nice 3-0 to claim the unofficial 'autumn championship' at halfway in the league programme.

SPAIN: Bad news for Bilbao boss Howard Kendall as his men are thrashed 4-0 by Real in Madrid. Hugo Sanchez scores two.

SWEDEN: Norrkoping beat Malmo 1-0 to level the aggregate score at 1-1 in the final of the championship play-offs. The play-off for the plays-off will be more interesting.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA hand Partizan Belgrade yet another home ground ban for the hooligan misbehaviour of fans at the Cup-winners' Cup tie against Groningen. UEFA claim fireworks were repeatedly thrown onto the pitch and there was a mass fan pitch invasion at the end. Also, Partizan's Goran Milojevic collected a three-game ban for ungentlemanly conduct.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich are dumped out of the cup, beaten 3-0 by Stuttgart.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

ACTION: Iraq win the Friendship Cup in Kuwait, beating Nigeria 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the final.

BELGIUM: A shock first defeat for Anderlecht, who go down 1-0 at home to Gent.

GREECE: Panathinaikos beat Panserraikos 3 1, thanks to goals from Hrizto Kolev (two) and Paraskevas Georakopulos, to go top of the table . . . police arrest 21 hooligans after crowd trouble at the Olympiakos v PAOK match.

HOLLAND: Sparta take veteran forward Rene Van der Gijp on loan from Aarau of Switzerland for the rest of the season . . . PSV sell striker Hans Gillhaus to Aberdeen for £600,000.

SPAIN: Barcelona beat Logrones 4-2 to stay within one point of leaders Real Madrid.

YUGOSLAVIA: Dinamo Zagreb win 2-0 away to Red Belgrade and go top of the table since Red Star lose 6-5 away to Olimpija on penalty kicks after a 1-1 draw.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

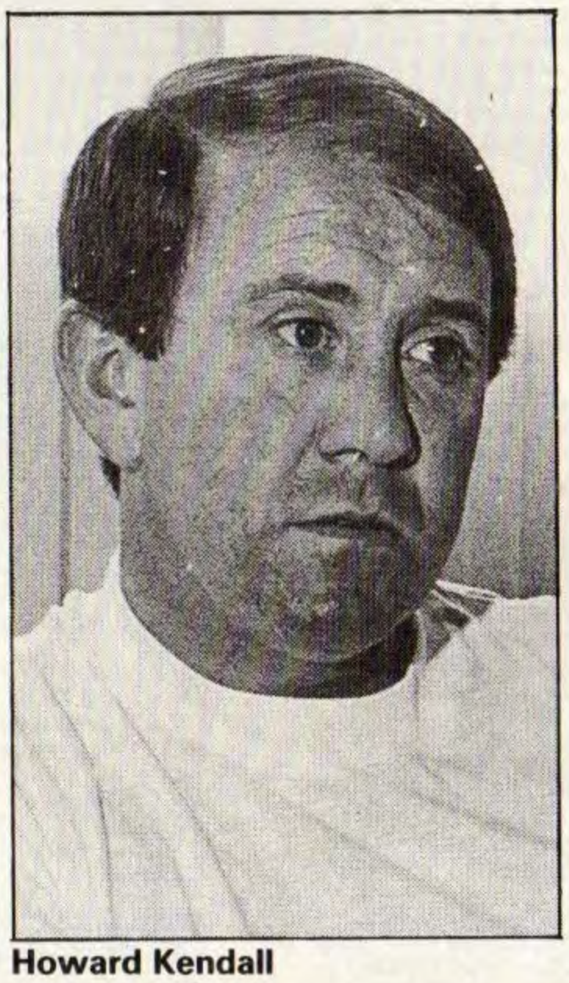
AUSTRIA: The OFB gives 5,000 tickets for the Vienna World Cup decider to the East German federation for distribution among the thousands of 'new exiles' who have been flooding into the west through Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

BELGIUM: The federation decides to reschedule the second half of the championship so it will end a week earlier than planned, thus providing the national team with more time to prepare for the World Cup finals.

HOLLAND: Gerald Vanenburg, the PSV star who injured his right knee in training in October, is given the all-clear to return to action at the end of the Dutch winter break in January.

SCOTLAND: Rangers release former England midfielder Ray Wilkins to return to London with Queen's Park Rangers.

SPAIN: Gijon defender Kevin Moran is voted FAI Player of the Year ahead of Ronnie Whelan and Ray Houghton . . . speculation builds up suggesting the imminent parting of the ways for Bilbao and manager Howard Kendall.



Howard Kendall

WEST GERMANY: Team chief Franz Beckenbauer says he will resign if his men fail to beat Wales to qualify for the World Cup finals.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

ACTION: Brazil and Yugoslavia draw 0-0 in Joao Pessoa . . . in the European under-21 championship East Germany beat Austria 1-0 in an academic match, since the Soviets top the group by beating Turkey 2-0. Holland beat Finland 2-1, Spain beat Hungary 1-0 and Switzerland beat San Marino 3-0 . . . England and Italy draw 1-1 in a B match at Brighton.

AUSTRIA: Rapid, in an effort to attract more fans and fewer hooligans announce that women and children will be admitted free to their next two home league games . . . Admlra Wacker give an extended trial to former Nottingham Forest Norwegian Kjetil Osvold, currently with PAOK of Greece.

EAST GERMANY: National team and Dresden boss Eduard Geyer says it is inevitable East German players will become available on an open international transfer market following the collapse of the Wall.

FRANCE: League leaders Bordeaux buy international forward Stephane Paille from Montpellier.

ITALY: Federation president Antonio Matarrese says an international diplomatic effort will be launched to try to stop known hooligans attending the World Cup finals.

SPAIN: Howard Kendall resigns as coach to Bilbao after two-and-a-half years. Former aide Jose Francisco Rojo takes over as caretaker to the end of the season with the prospect of being appointed permanently if he does well enough.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

ACTION: World Cup qualifying issues are resolved in one last major qualifying day. At the end of it all, Rumania go through at the expense of Denmark, the Soviet Union and Austria go through at the expense of Turkey and East Germany. Holland and West Germany are predictable qualifiers, Scotland scramble through against Norway and Spain and the Irish Republic cruise though with wins over Hungary and Malta. Czechoslovakia hold out successfully against Portugal in Lisbon . . . in friendly action, England and Italy draw 0-0 at Wembley.

SWEDEN: Norrkoping beat Malmo 4-3 on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the championship play-offs 'play-off'.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

COLOMBIA: Top referee Alvaro Ortega is shot dead by gunmen on his way back to his hotel after running the line at the league match, a goalless draw, between Independiente Medellin and America Cali. The illegal gambling 'mafia' is blamed for the killing. Independiente had failed to qualify for the championship finals as a result of the match.

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EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

Week ending November 19

BELGIUM

Mechelen 4 (Bosman 37, Emmers 81, 89, B Versavel 85), St Truiden 0. Att: 9,000.
Gent 1 (Wagenga 2), Cercle 1 (Van Gaver 70). Att: 9,000.
Lierse 0, Racing Mechelen 0. Att: 5,000.
Beveren 3 (Herreman 66, Van Ankeren 71, Van Vossen 87), Antwerp 1 (Claesen 54). Att: 8,500.
Charleroi 0, Standard Liege 2 (Thans 25, Tikva 70). Att: 20,000.
FC Liege 2 (Varga 8, 70), Waregem 0. Att: 4,500.
Germinal Ekeren 3 (Vos 75, 82, 89), Anderlecht 1 (Oliveira 85). Att: 10,000.
Club Brugge 3 (Ceulemans 11, 42, 67), Lokeren 1 (Van Veireghem 14pen). Att: 9,200.
Kortrijk 3 (Derouck 17, Krusen 34, 36), Beerschot 1 (Arisvaldo 37). Att: 4,400.

FRANCE

Midweek:
Monaco 1 (Diaz 6), Marseille 3 (Vercruysse 35, 78, Francescoli 57).

HOLLAND

Haarlem 0, Sparta 4 (Sandel 17, 67, Houtman 36, 80). Att: 1,500.
Willem II 0, NEC Nijmegen 1 (Roelofsen 73). Att: 6,000.
Den Bosch 0, Ajax 1 (Bergkamo 81). Att: 9,000.
Groningen 2 (Koorman 30, Eykelkamp 56), Den Haag 1 (Otto 77). Att: 6,500.
Feyenoord 2 (van Geel 67, 79pen), Twente 3 (Elzinga 44, Nielsen 70, Huistra 81pen). Att: 7,000. *Roth (Feyenoord) sent off.
Fortuna 1 (Duut 82), MVV 1 (Lanckohr 7). Att: 8,500.
Utrecht 1 (Willaarts 2), PSV Eindhoven 7 (Lerby 3, Romario 13, 23, 71, 83, Povlsen 25, Ellerman 89). Att: 17,500.
Volendam 1 (Steur 51pen), RKC 0. Att: 4,300.
Vitesse 2 (Hilgers 36, Latuheru 89), Roda 0. Att: 12,000.

ITALY

Atalanta 0, Bari 0. Att: 15,000.
Bologna 1 (Marronaro 60), Verona 0. Att: 18,000.
Fiorentina 5 (Baggio 11, 38, 87, Dertycia 63, 68), Ascoli 1 (Carillo 71). Att: 13,000.
Genoa 2 (Torrente 6, Aguilera 82pen), Cesena 3 (Esposito 3, Turchetta 9, Agostini 81). Att: 20,000.
Inter 0, Milan 3 (Van Basten 51, Fuser 73, Massaro 87). Att: 70,000.
Lecce 2 (Benedetti 10, Pasculli 83pen), Cremonese 1 (Dezotti 55pen). Att: 10,000.
Napoli 1 (Maradona 23pen), Sampdoria 1 (Dossena 62). Att: 60,000.
Roma 1 (Giannini 83), Lazio 1 (Bertoni 64). Att: 22,000.
Udinese 2 (Orlando 77, Branca 82), Juventus 2 (Zavarov 24, Fortunato 65). Att: 41,000.

SPAIN

Atletico Madrid 1 (Manolo 11), Barcelona 0. Att: 50,000.
Tenerife 2 (Delgado 44, Guina 46), Real Madrid 3 (Butraguewo 44, Hugo Sanchez 84, 86). Att: 22,000.
Cadiz 1 (Sanchez Pose 20), Oviedo 0. Att: 6,000.
Gijon 3 (Narciso 65, Emilio 84, Villa 86), Mallorca 0. Att: 19,500.
Bilbao 2 (Escurza 5, Mendiguren 15), Zaragoza 0. Att: 32,000.
Celta 0, Real Sociedad 0. Att: 11,000.
Valencia 2 (Penev 12, 69), Castellon 2 (Cabrera 75, Raul 77). Att: 17,000.
Malaga 1 (Quino 83), Osasuna 1 (Sola 6). Att: 10,000.
Sevilla 0, Valladolid 0. Att: 15,000.
Logrones 2 (Sarabia 9pen, Rosagro 23), Rayo Vallecano 0. Att: 11,000.

WEST GERMANY

St Pauli 1 (Golke 36), Fortuna Dusseldorf 0. Att: 20,500.
Nurnberg 0, Kaiserslautern 0. Att: 30,000.
Koln 3 (Hassler 10, Rahn 24, Littbarski 65), Eintracht Frankfurt 5 (Eckstein 7, 12, 89, Falkenmayer 50, Andersen 62). Att: 31,000.
Karlsruhe 2 (Schutterle 31, Harforth 45 pen), Bochum 0. Att: 17,000.
Homburg 4 (Jurgeleit 30, Maciel 48, 61, Dittmer 51), Stuttgart 2 (Buchwald 66, Olaf Schmaler 81). Att: 10,000.
Borussia Mg 0, Uerdingen 1 (Witeczek 34). Att: 16,000.
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Breitzke 70, Moller 74), Bayern Munich 2 (Flick 26, Strunz 28). Att: 54,000.
Werder Bremen 0, Bayer Leverkusen 0. Att: 23,800.
Waldhof Mannheim 4 (Dais 14pen, Ballwanz og 56, Uwe Meyer 68, Schindler 82), Hamburg 1 (Ballwanz 78). Att: 10,000.

Week ending November 26

BELGIUM

Anderlecht 0, Brugge 0. Att: 30,000.
Beerschot 0, Mechelen 0. Att: 6,000.
Standard Liege 0, Kortrijk 0. Att: 6,000.
Racing Mechelen 1 (Krohm 33pen), Beveren 0. Att: 2,500.
St Truiden 2 (Cvetkovic 65, Coenen 74pen), Gent 1 (Porte 52). Att: 6,000.
Lokeren 1 (Meszaros 42), Lierse 3 (Boonen 6, Seghers 24, Viscaal 65). Att: 3,500.
Cercle 1 (Weber 79), Ekeren 1 (Vos 19). Att: 5,000.
Waregem 2 (Teppers 40, Van Bakel 77), Charleroi 2 (Hurtado 13, Pugh 56). Att: 3,500.
Antwerp 1 (Schrooten 37), Liege 1 (Nijskens 84). Att: 6,000.

FRANCE

Racing 1 (Lima 31), Bordeaux 3 (Den Boer 35, Senac 70, Ferreri 83). Att: 23,000.
Toulouse 0, Lyon 0. Att: 10,198.
Nantes 0, Marseille 0. Att: 30,000.
Sochaux 0, Monaco 1 (Toullain og 75). Att: 3,000.
Saint-Etienne 0, Caen 0. Att: 11,772.
Metz 0, Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Charbonnier 78). Att: 11,559.
Toulon 0, Cannes 1 (Stopyra 44). Att: 5,000.
Lille 1 (Angloma 60), Brest 2 (Boucher 82pen, 85). Att: 4,500.
Nice 1 (Rohr 29), Auxerre 1 (Cocard 90). Att: 5,740.
Montpellier 3 (Ferhaoui 8, Blanc 58, Cantona 75), Mulhouse 3 (Krncevic 66, Keller 86, Nizeau 89). Att: 8,000.

HOLLAND

MVV 1 (Delahaye 1), Feyenoord 1 (Van Geel 72). Att: 5,000.
PSV 2 (Romario 39, 86pen), Fortuna Sittard 0. Att: 25,500.
NEC 0, Roda 1 (Trost 48). Att: 4,00.
Ajax 1 (Fischer 2), Willem II 0. Att: 10,200.
Volendam 1 (Berghuis 28), Vitesse 0. Att: 5,500.
RKC 3 (Hoeckstra 15, De Wijs 62, 68), Utrecht 3 (Boogers 11, Roest 45, De Kock 77). Att: 2,000.
Twente 2 (Zwijnenberg 47, Nielsen 52), Haarlem 2 (Rutten og 22, Karnebeek og 30). Att: 4,000.
Sparta 3 (Prince Polley 38, 49, Houtman 89), Groningen 0. Att: 4,500.
Den Haag 3 (Hoekman 2, Otto 61, Van der Laan 88), Den Bosch 1 (Gosgens 86). Att: 5,700.

ITALY

Ascoli 0, Cremonese 1 (Dezotti 55). Att: 20,000.
Atalanta 2 (Evair 39, Madonna 86), Inter 1 (Berti 46). Att: 42,000.
Bari 3 (Monelli 14, 61, Carrera 87), Udinese 1 (Mattei 50). Att: 18,000.
Cesena 1 (Pierleoni 11), Fiorentina 1 (Dertycia 58). Att: 12,000.
Juventus 1 (Bonetti 52), Napoli 1 (Crippa 16). Att: 50,000.
Lazio 0, Genoa 0. Att: 25,000.
Milan 2 (Van Basten 59, Massaro 79), Lecce 0. Att: 60,000.
Sampdoria 3 (Dossena 57, Lombardo 65, Vialli 72), Bologna 0. Att: 26,000.
Verona 2 (Pusceddu 54, Pellegrini 62), Roma 2 (Voller 64, Desideri 66). Att: 15,000.

SPAIN

Real Madrid 7 (Michel 5, Sanchis 29, Butraguewo 37, Martin Vasquez 43, 89, Hugo Sanchez 45, 87), Zaragoza 2 (Higuera 35, 50). Att: 40,000.
Barcelona 2 (Baquero 54, Roberto 77), Gijon 0. Att: 30,000.
Rayo Vallecano 4 (Hugo Maradona 25, Berg 40, 65, Juanito 50pen), Atletico Madrid 4 (Ferreira 3, Futre 14, Baltazar 33, 64pen). Att: 22,000.
Real Sociedad 1 (Menchaca 7), Logrones 0. Att: 15,000.
Oviedo 0, Malaga 0. Att: 16,401.
Osasuna 2 (Merino 12, Ciganda 54), Sevilla 1 (Andrade 88). Att: 15,000.
Mallorca 0, Valencia 1 (Arroyo 40). Att: 10,000.
Valladolid 3 (Pena 18, Lemos 24, Fonseca 50), Bilbao 12 (Mendiguren 78). Att: 10,000.
Castellon 1 (Cabrera 19), Cadiz 1 (Jose 86). Att: 5,000.
Tenerife 2 (Guina 62, Tono 63), Celta 1 (Maric 47). Att: 12,000.

WEST GERMANY

Werder Bremen 2 (Neubarth 13, Riedle 53), St Pauli 1 (Golke 39). Att: 20,000.
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Zorc 36pen), Leverkusen 1 (Buncol 5). Att: 22,000.
Nurnberg 4 (T Brunner 34pen, Turr 55, Dusend 70, Kristl 74). Bayern Munich 0. Att: 47,000.
Borussia Mtnchengladbach 3 (Effenberg 50pen, 69, Belaniv 74), Kaiserslautern 1 (Labbadia 88). Att: 14,000.
FC Homburg 1 (Finke 56), Bayer Uerdingen 2 (Reich 49, Brian Laudrup 51). Att: 8,500.
Karlsruhe 1 (H Hermann 25), Stuttgart 0. Att: 25,000.
Ktln 2 (Janssen 38, Rudy 48), Bochum 0. Att: 15,000.
Waldhof Mannheim 1 (Freiler 54), Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Turowski 15). Att: 14,000.
Hamburg 1 (Beiersdorfer 53), Fortuna Dusseldorf 0. Att: 12,500.

Week ending December 3

BELGIUM

Mechelen 4 (Wilmots 17, Bruno Versavel 26, Bosman 51, 89), Standard 0. Att: 10,130.
Gent v Beerschot pstpnd
Lierse 0, Anderlecht 4 (Degryse 7, 17, Bovrie og 12, Ukkonen 89). Att: 9,500.
Beveren 0, Lokeren 2 (Meszaros 18, Peersman 68). Att: 4,200.
Charleroi 0, Kortrijk 0. Att: 6,000.
Waregem v Antwerp pstpnd.
FC Liege 0, Racing 0. Att: 4,500.
Ekeren 1 (Van Wambeke 26), St Trond 0. Att: 4,500.
Club Brugge 2 (Booij 76, L Dizstl 87), Cercle 1 (De Buyser 57). Att: 20,000.

FRANCE

Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Bravo 14), Sochaux 0. Att: 4,500.
Auxerre 1 (Kovacs 50), Metz 1 (Black 7). Att: 4,000.
Bordeaux 2 (Ferreri 47, Allofs 56), Montpellier 0. Att: 20,000.
Brest 0, Saint-Etienne 0. Att: 10,000.
Caen 2 (Bala 17, Rio (29 pen), Toulon 2 (Bursac 39pen, Collot 60). Att: 6,000.
Cannes 3 (Bray 23, 35, Fernandez 69), Racing Paris 1 (Ginola 81 pen). Att: 5,000.
Marseille 6 (Mozer 21, Sauzee 25, Papin 38, 42 pen, 49, Vercruysse 39), Toulouse 1 (Marcico 50). Att: 40,000.
Monaco 1 (Poullain 89), Lille 1 (Perilleux 63), Att: 500.
Mulhouse 1 (Priou 83), Nice 0. Att: 6,000.

HOLLAND

Den Bosch 3 (Barendse 33, Van Schindel 35, De Gier 79), Sparta 0. Att: 2,000.
Fortuna 1 (Mordang 71), RKC 1 (Srard 25 pen). Att: 3,600.
Haarlem 1 (Koffijberg 49), MVV 1 (Delahaye 15). Att: 500.
Roda 1 (Van Loen 48), Ajax 1 (Pettersson 20). Att: 12,000.
Feyenoord 4 (Kiprich 22, Smolarek 24, Keur 41, 69), PSV Eindhoven 0. Att: 23,000.
Utrecht 0, Volendam 3 (Kromheer 55, 88, Berghuis 65). Att: 6,000.
Willem II 1 (LoggieT, Den Haag 1 (Lems 40 pen). Att: 5,000.
NEC 0, Vitesse 4 (Laamers 9, 64, Hilgers 33, 57). Att: 13,000.

ITALY

Cesena 2 (Agostini 10, 61), Inter 3 (Matteoli 32, Brehme 40, Seena 47). Att: 27,000.
Cremonese 2 (Citterio 9, Gualco 20), Juventus 2 (Alessio 31, Schillaci 34). Att: 25,000.
Fiorentina 1 (Battistini 54), Roma 2 (Desideri 7, Rizzitelli 44). Att: 28,000.
Genoa 0, Verona 1 (Bertozzi 18). Att: 28,000.
Lazio 2 (DiCanio 17, Sosa 78), Bari 2 (Joao Paolo 43, 79). Att: 25,000.
Lecce 0, Sampdoria 0. Att: 25,000.
Milan 1 (Donadoni 66), Bologna 0. Att: 60,000.
Napoli 3 (Crippa 10, Careca 27, Zola 48), Atalanta (Pasciullo 50). Att: 70,000.
Udinese 2 (Balbo 41, 66), Ascoli 0. Att: 17,000.

SPAIN

Valencia 2 (Boro 50, Penev 64), Barcelona 1 (Salinas 5). Att: 50,000. (Zubizarreta saved 76th min penalty by Arroyo; Fenol of Valencia and Julio Alberto of Barcelona both sent off).
Celta 0, Real Madrid 0. Att: 27,000.
Atletico Madrid 0, Real Sociedad 0. Att: 35,000.
Bilbao 1 (Fernandez 77), Osasuna 1 (Ciganda 12). Att: 40,000.
Sevilla 1 (Polster 43), Oviedo 2 (Zuniga 28, Sarriugarte 61). Att: 10,000.
Cadiz 1 (Cortijo 59), Mallorca 1 (Clemente 52). Att: 4,000.
Zaragoza 2 (Salillas 57, Pascual 86), Valladolid 2 (Moya 34pen, Hidalgo 87). Att: 25,000.
Malaga 1 (Paquito 82), Castellon 1 (Fernandez 73). Att: 20,000.
Logrones 4 (Sarabia 7pen, Alzamendi 12, P Garcia 54, Rosagro 79), Tenerife 1 (Guina 55pen). Att: 13,000.
Gijon 1 (Joaquin 63), Rayo Vallecano 0. Att: 20,000.

WEST GERMANY

St Pauli 2 (Golke 76, Zander 90), Borussia Dortmund 1 (Mtller 13). Att: 15,000.
Leverkusen 2 (Schreier 13, Limmandt 43), Nurnberg 0. Att: 12,000.
Bochum 2 (Kohn 33pen, Nehl 76), Waldhof Mannheim 0. Att: 9,000.
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Bein 17, Falkenmayer 78), Hamburg 0. Att: 25,000.
Stuttgart 3 (Greiner og 2, Walter 67, Kastl 73), Ktln 1 (Sturm, 90). Att: 33,200.
Uerdingen 1 (Fach 19), Karlsruhe 0. Att: 7,100.
Kaiserslautern 3 (Kuntz 37, 68, Schupp 89), Homburg 1 (Jurgeleit 52). Att: 21,000.
Bayern Munich 2 (Wohlfarth 5, McInally 74), Borussia Mg 0. Att: 20,000.
Fortuna Dusseldorf 2 (Fuchs 26, Chaloupka 84), Werder Bremen 1 (Borowka 88). Att: 13,000. (Herman missed penalty for Werder).

Week ending December 10

BELGIUM

Racing Mechelen 0, Waregem 0.
Anderlecht 1 (Gudjohnsen 10), Beveren 0.
St Truiden 1 (Cvetkovic), Club Brugge 4 (Farina two, Booij, Ceulemans).
Beerschot 1 (Talbut 88), Germinal Ekeren 0.
Charleroi 3 (Hurtado two, Van der Elst pen), Antwerp 3 (Lehnhoff, Claesen, Broekaert).
Cercle 1, Lierse 2.
Lokeren 1, FC Liege 1.
Kortrijk 0, KV Mechelen 0.
Standard 1, Gent 1.

FRANCE

Saint-Etienne 0, Monaco 2 (Diaz 42pen, Hateley 46).
Toulouse 1 (Marcico 77pen), Auxerre 1 (Scifo 64pen).
Nice 1 (Ricort 42), Lyon 0.
Metz 3 (Black 20, 67pen, Micciche 70), Marseille 2 (Waddle 40, Vercruysse 42).
Montpellier 2 (Guerin 19, Cantona 82), Paris St Germain 0.
Racing 2 (Thetis 35, Lima 82), Nantes 1 (Vercauteren 89pen).
Sochaux 2 (Croci 25, Carrasco 67), Bordeaux 0.
Lille 2 (Perilleux 40, Pele 65), Cannes 1 (Bellone 26).
Caen 2 (Bala 15, 89), Brest 1 (Cloarec 87).
Toulon 2 (Bursac 16pen, 28), Mulhouse 1 (Sliskovic 12).

HOLLAND

Vitesse 1 (Holger 54), Ajax 1 (Richard Witschge 33). Att: 11,500.
Volendam 2 (Van Loon 51, Pastor 66), Feyenoord 0. Att: 6,000.
Cup includes:
PSV 3, Veendam 0.

ITALY

Ascoli 0, Lazio 0. Att: 10,000.
Atlanta 1 (Bresciani 73), Udinese 0. Att: 20,000.
Bari (Monelli 7), Napoli 1 (Carnevale 83). Att: 34,000.
Bologna 2 (Bonetti 44, Bonini 73), Lecce 1 (Pasculli 78). Att: 20,000.
Inter 1 (Serena 63), Genoa 0. Att: 45,000.
Juventus 1 (Fortunato 34), Cesena 1 (Domini 58). Att: 20,000.
Roma 3 (Desideri 34, Voeller 44, 50), Cremonese 2 (Bonomi 35, Piccioni 40). Att: 20,000.
Sampdoria 1 (Vierchowod 65), Milan 1 (Ancelotti 70). Att: 42,000.
Verona 1 (Magrin 89), Fiorentina 0. Att: 20,000.

SPAIN

Real Madrid 4 (Schuster 18, Moreno og 29, Hugo Sanchez 42, Martin Vazquez 66), Valladolid 0.
Rayo Vallecano 2 (J Mejias 18, 64), Valencia 2 (Fernando 8, Penev 10).
Real Sociedad 1 (Gorriz 23), Gijon 2 (Emilio 12, Narciso 39).
Barcelona 5 (Baquero 6, 66, Beguiristain 15, Koeman 43pen, J Salinas 85), Cadiz 0.
Tenerife 2 (Rommel 34, 44), Atletico Madrid 3 (Manolo 21, 68, Alfredo 43).
Oviedo 1 (Sarriugarte 5), Athletic Bilbao 0.
Osasuna 2 (M Dominguez 40, Merino 77), Zaragoza 0.
Mallorca 2 (Vulic 22, G Cortes 84pen), Malaga 0.
Celta 0, Logrones 1 (Alzamendi 35).
Castellon 3 (Cabrera 28, 85, Ayucar 52), Sevilla 1 (Polster 67).

WEST GERMANY

Borussia Mtnchengladbach 1 (Jorginho 63), Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Belanov 29). Att: 15,500.
Nurnberg 0, St Pauli 1 (Grosskopf 12). Att: 13,000.
FC Homburg 1 (Maciel 19), Bayern Munich 3 (Mihajlovic 15, McInally 73, 90). Att: 15,000.
Karlsruhe 0, Kaiserslautern 0. Att: 18,000.
Ktln 0, Bayer Uerdingen 1 (Reich 33). Att: 10,000.
Waldof Mannheim 2 (Dais 10, Uwe Meyer 83), Stuttgart 1 (Walter 14 seconds). Att: 10,500.
Hamburg 1 (Dammeier 81), Bochum 4 (Rzehaczek 9, 31, Benatelli 13, Leifeld 16). Att: 8,100.
Borussia Dortmund 4 (Mill 14, Dickel 15, Lusch 21, Mtller 81), Werder Bremen 1 (Rufer 47). Att: 34,000.
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Bein 48, Falkenmayer 82), Fortuna Dusseldorf 0. Att: 20,000.

Austria celebrate against East Germany.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

Weds, November 1

Nov 1 = Tunis - intl friendly
Tunisia 0
Algeria 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Lanese (It)

Tunisia: Bourchada (Chouchane 19) - Mhadhebi, Farah (Ouahchy 46), Hicheri, Ben Yahia - Mahjoubi (Tounsi 12), Seilimi, Hergal, Tarak - Toussi (Dermech 43), Jeridi (Hsoumi 46).

Algeria: Larbi - Adghig, Ben Halima (Adjes), Megharia, Serrar - Amani, Ouazani, Saieb, Rahmani (Foussi 10l Benabou 63) - Belloumi, Haj Adlane.

This was a friendly between nations in the same predicament, both in danger of just missing out on places in the World Cup finals at the last stage of the African qualifiers and both preparing for decisive second leg matches. Also, the Algerians had one eye on their forthcoming prestige friendly in Italy.

Sunday, November 5

Nov 5 = Fenton, Missouri - WC CONCACAF final rnd
United States 0
El Salvador 0
Att: 8,500. **Ref:** Meachin (Can)

US: Meola - Armstrong (Klopas 57), Windischmann, Trittschuh, Banks - Stollmeyer, Ramos, Harkes, Bliss (Gabarra 83) - Eichmann, Murray.

El Salvador: Rivera - Coreas, Rodriguez, Carcamo, Estrada - Menjivar, Cienfuegos, *Gomez, Arbizu - Zapata, Rivas. *Gomez sent off, 88min.

The American failure to beat the El Salvador team was surrounded by controversy. First there had been trouble over date and place for the match. Secondly, there was the continuing American attacking problem. Thirdly, there were rumours that both El Salvador and Costa Rica were ready to pay for any assistance Trinidad and Tobago might offer them.

Kuwait - Islamic Friendship and Peace Festival
Iraq 0
Iran 0
Att: 8,500.

The two wartime belligerents faced up to each other for the first time in a "friendly" competition and produced a diplomatic result - after which all the players embraced and shook hands. Sheikh Fahd al Ahmed al Sabah, deputy chairman of the Festival's organising committee, presented the two teams with two copies of the Koran and reminded them that "the outcome of the match has political considerations more than sports importance."

Tuesday, November 7

Nov 7 = Tunis - intl friendly
Tunisia 0
Egypt 4 (Abdel Rasoul 4, Jamal Abdelhamid 62, Ahmed Ramzi 81, Abu Zeid 84 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,000.

Both nations were using this match to prepare for their World Cup qualifying return ties. Egypt looked strong and well-drilled, Tunisia weak and uncertain - even though it was not until after the interval that the visitors scored three of their four goals.

Saturday, November 11

Nov 12 = Vicenza - intl friendly
Italy 1 (Serena 74)
Algeria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug)

Italy: Zenga - Bergomi (Ferrara 46), De Agostini, Baresi, Ferri, Marocchi, Baggio, De Napoli (Donadoni 51), Vialli, Giannini, Carnevale (Serena 70).

Algeria: Larbi - Adghigh, Adjas, Megharia, Benhalima, Amani, Cherif El Ouazani, Saieb. Rahmani (Hady 46), Belloumi (Haffaf 84), Madjer.

Aldo Serena, last season's top league scorer last season, returned after injury to devastating effect. He had hardly touched the ball before he was given the chance to score the only goal of the game. Baggio crossed, Giannini failed to control the bal but Serena was backing up to put the ball into the net. This was his first goal for his country for three years. Italy had dominated the match but failed badly to capitalise on a number of openings. At the end they were jeered off the pitch by their own fans.

Tuesday, November 14

Nov 14 = Joao Pessoa, Brz - intl friendly
Brazil 0
Yugoslavia 0
Att: 27,604. **Ref:** D'Elia (It)

Brazil: Taffarel - Josimar (Muller 46), Mauro Galvao, Andre Cruz, Ricardo Rocha, Mazinho - Dunga, Geovani, Silas (Bismarck 75) - Bebeto, Romario (Tita 67).

Yugoslavia: Ivkovic - Stanojkovic, Hadzibegic, Marovic, Spasic - Panadic, Jankovic (Boban 63), Savicevic, Stojkovic - Prosinecki, Brnovic.

Brazil were reasonably happy, considering the absences of several players who had not been released by their European clubs. They had most of the pressure and both Bebeto and Romario came close to goals. After only five minutes a spectacular effort by Bebeto flew just wide of a post. Geovani and Romario were also out of luck. Right at the end of the match there was general chaos in the Slav penalty box. Bebeto tried to take advantage but his shot struck a post.

Nov 14 = Cocoa, Florida - intl friendly
Bermuda 1
United States 2 (Doyle, Eichmann)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000

With their poor attacking record, it was a welcome change to see the United States back on the goals path. Second-half strikes from Doyle and Eichmann were enough for victory in a last warm-up for the decisive World Cup tie in Trinidad.

Weds, November 15

Nov 15 = Athens - World Cup Euro qual 1
Greece 1 (Noblias 49)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug)

Greece: Papadopulos - Karageorghiu, Mustakidis, Manolas, Deliyannis, D Papadopulos (Alexiu 75), Borbokis, Vutiritsas, Samaras (Stamatis 29), Noblias, Marangos.

Bulgaria: Valov - Dimitrov, Ivanov, Tinchev, Dochev (Stoyanov 81), Bankov, Yanchev, Stoichkov, Balukov, Yordanov, Iskrenov (Kostadinov 75).

Greece collected their only victory in the World Cup qualifiers too late to mater. Nikos Noblias, who had wasted an opening in the 14th minute, scored the winner on a pass from Nikos Karagheorgiu. Iskrenov had Bulgaria's best chance but was foiled by a brave save from Papadopulos in the 35th minute.

Nov 15 = Bucharest - World Cup Euro gp 1
Rumania 3 (Balint 25, 61, Sabau 38)
Denmark 1 (Povlsen 6)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Lanese (It)

Rumania: Lung - Petrescu (Ungureanu 85), Iovan, Andone, Rotariu - *Hagi, Sabau, Popescu, Lupu (Mateut 78) - Lacatus, Balint. *Hagi sent off, 63min.

Denmark: Schmeichel - Sivebaek (Ekstrup 72), L Olsen, K Nielsen, I Nielsen, J Jensen, M Laudrup, Lerby, Bartram, Povlsen, B Laudrup.

Rumania clawed their way back to reach the finals for the first time since 1970 despite having star Gheorghe Hagi sent off in the second half and despite falling behind after only six minutes. Denmark must have thought they were in Italy when Flemming Povlsen stabbed the ball home after Brian Laudrup opened up the Rumanian defence. In the 25th minute, however, Balint equalised after a Lacatus header and then loan Sabau scored another in a goalmouth scramble. Sabau created Balint's decisive second goal in the 61st minute. Two minutes later Hagi was sent off. Denmark manager Sepp Piontek talked about quitting in the immediate aftermath but the federation extended his contract only the next day.

Nov 15 = Tirana - World Cup Euro gp 2
Albania 1 (Kushta 63)
Poland 2 (Tarasiewicz 45, Ziober 84)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Smith (Scot)

Albania: Nallbani - Zmijani, Hodja, Xhumba, Iljadhi, Josa (Arberi 60), Demollari, Pano (Kepa 74), Jera, Kushta, Bubeqi.

Poland: Bako - Kubicki, Czachowski, Wdowczyk, Kaczmarek, R Warzycha, Tarasiewicz, Kosecki, Szewczyk, Dziekanowski (K Warzycha 36), Ziober.

Ryszard Tarasiewicz was the decisive figure in wrapping up group two action. He scored Poland's opening goal then paved the way for Jacek Ziober to score the second. Poland went ahead when the Albanians were still unsettled that Scottish referee George Smith had denied them a goal moments earlier. The Albanians claimed Polish keeper Bako had fallen behind the goal-line in catching the ball. Albania equalised through Kushta eventually but Poland won the match with Ziober's goal after a Tarasiewicz shot struck a post.

Nov 15 = Vienna - World Cup Euro gp 3
Austria 3 (Polster 2, 23pen, 61)
East Germany 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Werner (Pol)

Austria: Lindenberger - Aigner, Pecl, Pfeffer, Artner, Keglevits, Linzmaier, Zsak, Hortnagl, Ogris (Herzog 76); Pfeifenberger 83), Polster.

E Germany: Heyne - Stahmann, *Kreer, Lindner, Schossler, Doschner (Doll 43), Stubner, Sammer (Weidemann 78), Steinmann, Kirsten, Thom. *Kreer sent off, 76min.

Thousands of East Germans poured into Vienna hoping that their national team could somehow celebrate the opening of the Berlin Wall by snatching a victory which would take them onto the World Cup finals. It was not to be. A superb opportunistic hat-trick by Toni Polster took Austria through instead. The frustration proved too much for East German skipper Ronald Kreer, who was sent off as tempers boiled over. Polster's first quick goal caught the East Germans by surprise. His second was a penalty after a foul on Keglevits. Seven minutes later Rico Steinmann saw a penalty of his own saved by Lindenberger and with it went the visitors' last real chance of getting back in the game. Polster wrapped up the vital points for Austria by converting a pass from the outstanding Keglevits. "This is the best moment of our lives," said Austria's Andy Herzog.

Nov 15 = Simferopol - World Cup Euro gp 3
Soviet Union 2 (Protasov 68, 79)
Turkey 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Pauly (WG)

Sov Union: Dasayev - Luzhny (Rats 46), Khidiatulin, Zigmantovich, Gorlukovich, Yaremchuk, Mikhailichenko, Litovchenko, Zavarov, Protasov, Dobrovolsky (Cherenkov 46).

Turkey: Engin - Recep, Kemal, Semih, Gokhan, Mustafa (Metin 46), Ohguz, Hakan (Tanju 77), Riza, Ridvan, Feyyaz.

All Turkey's dreams of apartments and bonuses disappeared thanks to two goals from Oleg Protasov in the last 22 minutes. The 2,000 Turkish fans who had made the optimistic journey went home disappointed. Yet the margin of defeat could have been higher. Keeper Engin made several excellent saves and Turkeuy manufactured only one real opportunity - when a Ridvan free kick was expertly sved by Dasayev.

Nov 15 = Rotterdam - World Cup Euro gp 4
Holland 3 (Bosman 57, E Koeman 62, R Koeman 69pen)
Finland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 49,500. **Ref:** Nervik (Swe)

Holland: Van Breukelen - Van Aerle, R Koeman, Rijkaard, Van Tiggelen, Van't Schip (Rob Witschge 78), Wouters, E Koeman (Hofkens 68), Ellerman, Bosman, Van Basten.

Finland: Laukkanen - Kanerva, Holmgren, Europaeus, Heikkinen, Ikalainen, Myyry, Ukkonen (Tauriainen 56), Tarkkio (Petaja 75), Lipponen, Patelainen.

Holland duly completed the qualifying formalities though it was not until the second half that their superiority was converted into goals to confirm their return to the finals after 12 years. Kari Laukkanen made some fine first-half saves. But after the interval Bosman - considered offside by the Finns - scored once, Erwin Koeman converted a free kick from brother Ronald, and Ronald shot home from the penalty spot after being fouled by Jari Europaeus.

Nov 15 = Cologne - World Cup Euro gp 4
West Germany 2 (Voller 27, Hassler 48)
Wales 1 (Allen 11)

Werder Bremen score in their 5-1 UEFA Cup win against Napoli.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

HT: 1-1. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Vautrot (Fr)
W Germany: Illgner - Augenthaler (A Reinhardt 46), Reuter, Buchwald, Brehme, Hassler, Dorfner, Moller (Bein 82), Littbarski, Klinsmann, Voller.
Wales: Southall - Bowen (Horne 65), Aizlewood, Phillips, Blackmore, Saunders, Melville (Pascoe 80), Nicholas, Hughes, M Allen, Maguire.
West Germany gave their fans some heart-stopping moments on their way through to the finals. A neat one-two with Mark Hughes gave Malcolm Allen the gap to score a shock 11th-minute goal for Wales. But West Germany recovered well and Rudi Voller equalised after Jurgen Klinsmann turned on a Littbarski corner. Littbarski, three minutes after the interval, created the chance for another home-town hero, Thomas Hassler, to drive home the winner. German manager Franz Beckenbauer said: "That was the most important game of my career. If we had lost my team would have been the first German side to fail in the World Cup qualifiers."

Nov 15 = Glasgow/Hampden - World Cup Euro gp 5
Scotland 1 (McCoist 44)
Norway 1 (Johnsen 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Listkiewicz (Pol)
Scotland: Leighton - McPherson, Malpas, Aitken, McLeish, Miller, Johnston, McStay, McCoist, Bett, Cooper (McClair 74).
Norway: Thorstvedt - H Hansen, Bratseth, Kojedal, Johnsen, Gulbrandsen, Ahlsen, Skammelsrud, Sorloth, Fjortoft.
Scotland maintained their World Cup finals presence despite a last-minute blunder by Jim Leighton, as a shot from Erland Johnsen squeezed through his hands for a Norwegian equaliser. The sense of relief was greater than the sense of triumph for Scotland had the chances to have made sure of victory long before the end.

Nov 15 = Seville - World Cup Euro gp 6
Spain 4 (Manolo 7, Butragueno 24, Juanito 40, Fernando Gomez 63)
Hungary 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Biguet (Fr)
Spain: Zubizarreta - Chendo, Sanchis, Milla, Jimenez, Michel (Eusebio 65), Juanito, Gomez, Manolo (J Salinas 65), Butragueno, Villaroyo.
Hungary: P Disztl - Simon, Pinter, Keller, Z Bognar, E Kovacs, G Bognar (Szalma 62), K Kovacs, Fischer (Bacsi 62), Szekeres, Kozma.
Spain easily demolished Hungary once they had ridden a first few minutes of Magyar pressure.

Nov 15 = Valletta - World Cup Euro gp 6
Malta 0
Rep Ireland 2 (Aldridge 31, 68 pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Uilenberg (Hol)
Malta: Cini - S Vella, Azzopardi (Suda 68), Galea, Scerri, Buttigieg, Busuttil, Zerafa (Zarb 68), Carabott, Degiorgio, Gregory.
Rep Ireland: Bonner - McGrath, Moran (Morris 26), Staunton, O'Leary, Houghton, Sheedy, Townsend, Whelan, Aldridge, Cascarino.
Two-goal John Aldridge was a goal-scoring hero at long last as Jack Charlton's Irishmen reached the World Cup finals for the first time. Charlton was greeted as a national hero once more back in Dublin.

Nov 15 = Lisbon - World Cup Euro gp 7
Portugal 0
Czechoslovakia 0
Att: 50,000. **Ref:** Syme (Scot)
Portugal: Silvino - Joao Pinto (Vitor Paneira 46), Venancio, Frederico, Veloso, Jorge Ferreira, Pacheco, Sousa, Rui Barros, Cesar Brito (Pedro Xavier 80), Rui Aguas.
Czechoslovakia: Stejskal - Kocian, Straka, Kadlec, Nemecek, Bilek, Hasek, Chovanec, Moravcik (Kiniek 88), Skuhravy, Luhovy (Weiss 87).
Portugal needed to win by four clear goals to overtake the Czechs in the race for Italy and that never looked likely. Rui Aguas had a couple of powerful breaks early on. But after that it was not until late in the day that Portugal threatened again to breach the Czech defence. Then Cesar Brito shot badly wide from close range before seeing another effort well saved by keeper Stejskal. Czech manager Josef Venglos said: "My players followed their instructions to the letter. I'm delighted."

Nov 15 = St Gallen - World Cup Euro gp 7
Switzerland 2 (Bonvin 54, Turkyilmaz 62)
Luxembourg 1 (Malget 14)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Itzhak (Isr)
Switzerland: Brunner - Geiger, Marini, Heer, Baumann, Koller, Heldmann (Schepull 59), Hermann, A Sutter (Bonvin 46), Rurkyilmaz, Knup.
Luxembourg: Van Rijswijck - Bossi, Birsens, Weis, Scheuer, Gires, Ellers, Saibene, Groff, Malget (Scholten 83), Morocutti.
Switzerland's smallest international crowd turned out for what should have been a formality. Instead Luxembourg surprised Switzerland by holding an early lead until the second-half intervention of substitute Christophe Bonvin. Kubilay Turkyilmaz scored the winner in a match which had been delayed 25 minutes because of power failure.

Nov 15 = Wembley - intl friendly
England 0
Italy 0
Att: 70,000. **Ref:** Forstinger (Aus)
England: Shilton (Beasant 46) - Stevens, Pearce (Winterburn 66), McMahon (Hodge 66), Walker, Butcher, Robson (Phelan 46), Waddle, Beardsley (Platt 78), Lineker, Barnes.
Italy: Zenga - Bergomi, Maldini, F Baresi, Ferri, Berti, Donadoni, De Napoli, Vialli (Baggio 81), Giannini, Carnevale (Serena 70).
A low-key match between two teams who both began knowing that a draw would be considered a good result. England, thanks to some fine approach play by a slimline Chris Waddle, had the better of the 90 minutes but Italy were unlucky to have a first-half 'goal' by the surprisingly fast-moving Carnevale disallowed by a spurious offside flag.

Friday, November 17

Nov 17 = Cairo - WC African final round, 2nd leg
Egypt 1 (Hassan 4)
Algeria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 120,000. **Ref:** Ben Nasser (Tun)
Egypt win 1-0 on agg
Egypt: Ahmed Shobair - Ibrahim Hassan, Hisham Yaken, Hani Ramzy, Rabei Yassin, Ahmed Ramzy. Magdi Abdelghani, Hisham Abdel Rassoul, Ahmed El Kas, Hossam Hassan, Gamal Abdel Hamid.
Algeria: Al Arabi Al Hadi - Al Mahdi Halima, Foudel Megharia, Kamal Aggas, Abdul Hamid Sarrar, Djamal Ammani, Lakhdar Belloumi, Abdul Kader Ferhawi, Rabah Madjer, Djamal Menad, Sherif Al Wazzan.
Hassan's fourth-minute goal, headed home from a cross by Ahmed El Kas, was enough to bring Egypt back to the World Cup finals for the first time since they appeared in the finals in 1934 - also in Italy. Thousands of flag-waving Egyptians brought Cairo's central streets to a standstill after the final whistle of referee Ben Nasser, in scenes reminiscent of Egypt's 1986 African Nations' Cup triumph at the same venue and with the same referee. Dispirited Algeria tried hard to meet the challenge in the first half but Egypt quickly regained control and played out the rest of the match comfortably. Midfielder Abdelghani, who plays for Beira-Mar in Portugal, was the key figure. Hossam Hassan wasted a chance of a second goal in the 86th minute but he and twin brother Ibrahim Hassan (the right back) still had plenty to celebrate. Algeria complained bitterly in defeat, particularly about an incident in which star schemer Lakhdar Belloumi was alleged to have assaulted the Egyptian team doctor.

Nurenburg v Bayern Munich.

Saturday, November 18

Nov 18 = Toulouse - WC Euro gp 5
France 1 (Deschamps 25, Blanc 75)
Cyprus 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 34,687 (including 15,450 free scholars). **Ref:** Butenko (SU)
France: Bats - Amoros, Silvestre, Casoni, Sauzee - Pardo, Deschamps, Perez (Blanc 17) - Papin, Cantona.
Cyprus: Charitou - Kastanas, Pittas, Christodolou, Socratous - Constantinou, Nikolau, Christofi, Savva - Koliandris, Ioannou.
Joel Bats celebrated his 50th international in the easiest possible way. Cyprus forced only one corner all evening and never had to field one direct shot. At the other end a transitional French team could have scored more than the two goals provided by Didier Deschamps (who transferred from Nantes to Marseille two days later) and substitute Laurent Blanc. The unhappy truth for France was that if they had imitated this result away to Cyprus - they were held 1-1, instead, in Limassol - they would have qualified for the finals instead of Scotland.

Sunday, November 19

Nov 19 = Port of Spain - WC North/Central American final rnd
Trinidad and Tobago 0
United States 1 (Caligiuri 30)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Lostau (Arg)
Trinidad and Tobago: Maurice - Morris, Francis, Jamerson, Williams - Faustin, Latapy, Allen (Lee 75), Yorke (Charles 61) - Lewis, Jones.
US: Meola - Doyle, Windischmann, Krumpe (Stollmeyer 61), Trittschuh - Caligiuri, Bliss, Ramos - Vermes, Harkes, Murray.
The US reached the finals for the first time in 40 years thanks to a long-range goal driven home by midfielder Paul Caligiuri, who played last season in the West German second division with Meppen. Caligiuri collected a Tab Ramos throw-in before surprising goalkeeper Michael Maurice with his shot. The goal sent a huge wave of relief running through the world game - the Americans having thus secured their most prized public relations weapon in the run-up to their World Cup hosting in 1994.

Nov 19 = Tunis - WC African final rnd 2nd leg
Tunisia 0
Cameroon 1 (Omam Biyick 14)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Badare (Senegal)
Cameroon 3-0 on agg
Tunisia: Nasser Shoushane - Khaled Ben Yahia, Taoufik Mhadhebi, Taoufik Hichri, Samir Sellimi, Mohamed Ali Mahjoubi, Nabil Maaloul (Faouzi Rouissi 46), Tarek Dhiab, Abdelhamid Hergal, Fahd Dermech, Jamaleddine Limam (Hsoumi 84).
Cameroon: Bell - Tataw, Pagal, Kunde, Ebwelle, Ebongue (Mkanaky 40), Mbouh, Omam Biyick (Djonkep 75), Mfede, Kana Biyick, Ekeke.
Cameroon qualified to return to the finals which they first delighted in Spain in 1982. The African champions secured their place in Italy in the 14th minute when Omam Biyick deflected a left-wing cross beyond home keeper Shoushane - deputising for Ahmed Bourchada, who had been injured in a preparatory friendly against Algeria a few weeks earlier. Keeper Antoine Bell was in secure form in the Cameroon goal. He saved well from Samir Sellimi and Abdelhamid Hergal. Even when he once let a shot from Standard Liege's Limam slip out of his hands, a defender was on hand to clear to safety.

Weds, December 13

Dec 13 = Wembley - intl friendly
England 2 (Robson 38sec, 69)
Yugoslavia 1 (Skoro 17)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Pauly (WG)
England: Shilton (Beasant 46) - Parker, Walker, Butcher, Pearce (Dorigo 46) - Thomas (Platt 67), Rocastle (Hodge 67), Robson (McMahon 75), Waddle - Bull, Lineker.
Yugoslavia: Ivkovic - Stanojkovic, Hadzibegic, Vulic, Spasic (Petric 80) - Susic (Panadic 75), D Brnovic (Prosinecki 75), Stojkovic, Savevski - Skoro, Mihajlovic.
Skipper Bryan Robson scored the fastest goal in Wembley history, after 38 seconds, as he led England to victory in this first warm-up since the World Cup draw. Robson's goals stretched England's unbeaten run to 14 games and inflicted only the second defeat of the year on a Yugoslav side which was the first to qualify for the World Cup finals. Manager Bobby Robson made

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

four line-up changes and introduced five substitutes during the second half to taste international action. That had instant effect. After only 38 seconds skipper Robson headed home a Chris Waddle free kick. Yugoslavia, themselves without six regulars because of club demands, equalised 17 minutes later with a fine strike from midfielder Haris Skoro. Marseille-bound midfielder Dragan Stojkovic dominated for much of the match but was helpless to control the Robson power pack as the England midfielder swept in the winner from close range.

Dec 13 = Santa Cruz de Tenerife - intl friendly
Spain 2 (Michel 43pen, Felipe Minambres 60)
Switzerland 1 (Knup 47)
HT: 1-0. Att: 22,000.
Spain: Zubizarreta - Chendo, Jimenez (Felipe 49), Andrinua (Moya 63), Sanchis (Tomas 49), Milla (Arias 63), Manolo (F Ferreira 49), Michel, Butragueno, Martin Vazquez, Villaroya.
Switzerland: Brunner - Baumann, Marini, Fischer, Herr, Hermann, Knup, A Sutter (Chassot 72), Turkyilmaz, Hottiger (Gamperle 69), Piffaretti (Silvestre 21).
Spain began their World Cup preparations programme with a straightforward 2-1 win over Switzerland which manager Luis Suarez used to run the rule over a string of fringe substitutes. Midfielder Michel opened the score in the 43rd miniute by converting a penalty awarded for a foul by Bauman. Switzerland were fortunate to equalise just after half-time when Adrian Knup headed home after a long free kick by Alain Sutter. Spain soon regained control of play and substitute Felipe Minambres headed the winner on the hour.

OTHER MATCHES

Nov 5: Trinidad & Tobago 4, Zhalgiris Vilnius 4.
Nov 9: Trinidad & Tobago 0, Zhalgiris Vilnius 1.
Dec 12: England B 2, Yugoslavia B 1.

UEFA CUP

Third rnd, first legs (Nov 22 unless stated)
Antwerp 1 (Hans-Peter Lehnhoff 9)
Stuttgart 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Spirin (SU).
Played Nov 21.
Antwerp: Svilar - Kiekens, Broeckaert, Quaranta, Smidts, Lehnhoff (Curcic 86), Van Rooij, Schrooten, Emmerechts, Czeniatynski, Geilenkirchen.
Stuttgart: Immel - G Schafer, Frontzeck, Nils Schmaler, Buchwald, Hartmann, Allgower, Walter (Olaf Schmaler 72), Basualdo (Juptner 66), Sigurvinsson, Hotic.
An early goal from Lehnhoff provided the Belgians with a slim lead after a defensive mistake by Nils Schmaler enabled Lehnhoff - himself a West German - to collect a pass from Patrick Schrooten and slip the ball beyond Immel. Ironically Lehnhoff nearly joined Stuttgart during the summer. There could have been more goals in this early period. Ralf Geilenkirchen, another West German exile, was foiled by Immel in the 20th minute and then skipper Frans Van Rooij saw a shot fly narrowly wide. Stuttgart, last season's runners-up, were repeatedly caught out in the Antwerp offside trap.

Fiorentina 1 (Roberto Baggio 78 pen)
Kiev Dynamo 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,000 (in Perugia). **Ref:** Tritschler (WG)
Fiorentina: Landucci - Pioli, Volpecina, Iachini (Zironelli 79), Pin - Battistini, Kubik, Dunga, Dertycia (Lama 87) - Baggio, DiChiara.
Kiev: Chanov - Besonov, Bal, Kuznetsoc, Shmatovalenko - Luzhny, Mikhailichenko, Litovchenko, *Yaremchuk - Salenko (Mikiforov 87), Zayets. *Yaremchuk sent off, 35min.
Roberto Baggio, star of the moment, scored a late winner from the penalty spot after Vladimir Besonov brought down Alberto Di Chiara. The previous weekend Baggio scored a league hat-trick. He was also the centre of attention when Kiev had Ivan Yaremchuk sent off in only the 35th minute. His crime was to kick Baggio. Earlier, for all the excellent approach play of Baggio and the Brazilian, Dunga, Fiorentina appeared unlikely to score. Argentine Oscar Dertycia wasted two openings and controversial Czech midfielder Lubos Kubik was rarely involved in play. The pick of the Kiev was 20-year-old forward, Oleg Salenko.

Hamburg 1 (Thomas Von Heesen 48)
Porto 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Lanese (It)
Hamburg: Golz - LKober, Beiersdorfer, Schroder - Moser, Sporl, Jusufi, Von Heesen, Jensen - Merkle, Furtok.
Porto: Baia - Geraldao, Joao Pinto, Demol, Pereira, Banderirinha (Morato 83), Andre, Branco (Jorge Couto 65), Semedo - Rui Aguas Madjer.
Thomas Von Heesen was Hamburg's match-winner, yet he almost did not play because of a foot injury. The first half saw few chances. But once Hamburg had gone ahead they grew in confidence and Porto's Pereira and Aguas were shownthe yellow card. Aguas would thus miss the second leg. Around 1,000 emigrant East Germans fans were awarded free entry to the match.

Juventus 2 (Salvatore Schillaci 81, Pierluigi Casiraghi 87)
Karl-Marx-Stadt 1 (Lutz Weinhold 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel)
Juventus: Tacconi - Napoli, Bonetti, Fortunato, De Agostini - Marocchi, Galia, Zavarov, Aleinikov (Casiraghi 55) - Rui Barros, Schilaci.
KM-Stadt: Schmidt - Bitterman, Illing, Muller, Barsikov - Kohler, Ziffert, Steinmann, Heidrich - Wienhold (Mitzscherling 75), Keller.
Juve's young new forwards scored the goals in the last nine minutes when it seemed the East Germans were waiting to spring another international surprise. 'Toto' Schillaci converted a Rui Barros pass for the first Italian goal, then Pierluigi Casiraghi headed the winner from a Fortunato headed pass only six minutes after arriving as substitute for Sergei Aleinikov. Earlier the 430 East German fans who had travelled - "The trip cost us about half a month's salary," said one - thought they would enjoy extra celebrations. Lutz Weinhold shot KMS ahead in the 68th minute with a delicate lob.

Napoli 2 (Alemao 51, Careca 64)
Werder Bremen 3 (Frank Neubarth 41, Karl-Heinz Riedle 47, Wynton Rufer 89)
HT: 37,500. **Ref:** Bo Karlsson (Swe).
Napoli: Giuliani - Ferrara, Francini, Baroni, Alemao (Corradini 68), Renica (Mauro 46), Fusi, De Napoli, Careca, Maradona, Carnevale.
Bremen: Reck - Bockenfeld, Otten, Bratseth, Hermann, Borowka, Eilts, Votava, Riedle, Neubarth (Wolter 69), Rufer.
Napoli, holders of the UEFA Cup, suffered a major shock when New Zealand World Cup star Wynton Rufer snatched a goal which beat them in the very last minute. Napoli's players were bitterly disappointed, since they had already come back from 2-0 down to level the scores at 2-2. Surprisingly, Bremen attacked from the start. Alessandro Renica wasted Napoli's first real chance in the 40th minute before, a minutel ater, Neubarth shot the Germans ahead on a breakaway engineered by Miroslav Votava. Two minutes into the second half Riedle extended Bremen's lead by heading home a Dieter Eilts cross. Napoli were struggling, with neither Maradona, Careca nor Alemao fully fit. Yet Alemao smashed a first goal for Napoli on a Maradona pass and then Careca snatched a close-range equaliser. Maradona had a 'goal' disallowed before Reck saved well from Carnevale to keep Bremen on terms and alert for Rufer's late, late winner.

Olympiakos Piraeus 1 (Nikos Anastopulos 29)
Auxerre 1 (Kalman Kovacs 19)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol)
Olympiakos: Talikriadis - Apostolakis, Karataides, Pahaturides, Tsaluhidis, Hatzidis (Tsiantakis 46), Savides, Anastopulos, Mitropulos, Mavromatis, Detari.
Auxerre: Martini - Catalano, Mazzolini, Darass, Barret, B Boli, Matusik, Vignola, Guerreiro, Kovacs, Scifo, Vahirua (Cokar 71; Dutuel 89).
Olympiakos attacked from the start but Lajos Detari was off form and fellow Hungarian Kalman Kovacs shot the visiting French ahead after 19 minutes afterPascal Vahirua had dispossessed a defender. Three minutes later Belgian Enzo Scifo wasted a superb chance to increase that lead. On the half-hour veteran striker Nikos Anastopulos scored from close range after a move between Minas Hatzides and Tassos Mitropulos.

Rapid Vienna 1 (Zlatko Kranjcar 47)
FC Liege 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,500. **Ref:** Da Silva (Por)
Rapid: Koch - Blizenec, Kienast, Pecl, Brauneder - Weber, Heraog (Kranjcar 46), Schottel, Restinger - Fjortoft, Pfeifenberger.
Liege: Munaron - Wegria, Giusto, De Sart, Habrant - Ernes (Nijskens 71), *Houben, Waseige, Boffin - Varga, Malbassa. Liege: *Houben sent off, 85min.
Rapid took a narrow advantage on an icy pitch and with a snowstorm blowing down the second half. The Austrians missed Konsel and Keglevits through suspensions but stand-in goalkeeper Andreas Koch proved equal to the task of deputising for Konsel and made several excellent stops. Yugoslav substitute Zlatko Kranjcar scored the winner, clipping a free kick over the wall and up into the right-hand corner of goal. As the game went on so tempers frayed. Houben, Malbasa and Ernes of Liege were all yellow-carded and Houben was later sent off.

Red Star Belgrade 2 (Dejan Savicevic 76, 80)
Koln 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 79,750. **Ref:** Biguet (Fr)
Red Star: Stojanovic - Drizic, Najdoski, Juric, Prosinecki (Stosic 86), Savicevic, Stojkovic, Marovic - Kanatlarovski, Mrkela (Lukic 58), Pancev.
Koln: Illgner - Steiner, Higl, Giske, Hassler, Greiner - Jensen, Janssen, Littbarski, Rahn - Sturm.
The round's biggest crowd, of almost 80,000, saw Red Star leave it late before seizing control. Koln might have taken an instant lead but Uwe Rahn's second-minute shot was well saved by the Red Star goalkeeper Stevan Stojanovic. He saved well again from Rahn just on half-time. But the second half was a different story. Now Red Star powered forward. Savicevic headed home from close range after a Dragan Stojkovic corner in the 76th minute. Then, four minutes later, he shot home an angled drive after beating three defenders.

UEFA CUP

Third round, second legs (Dec 6 unless stated)
Stuttgart 1 (Michael Frontzeck 51)
Antwerp 1 (Nico Broeckaert 60)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug). Played Dec 5.
Antwerp 2-1 on agg
Stuttgart: Immel - Allgower, Schafer, Schmaler, Juptner - Hartmann, Basualdo (Kastl 65), Frotzeck, Rasmussen (Poschner 75), Walter, Gaudino.
Antwerp: Svilar - Broeckaert, Emmerechts, Smits, Kiekens, Geilenkirchen, Van Rooy, Schrooten, Quaranta (Czerniatyski 77), Lehnhof, Claesen.
Last season's runners-up went out as Stuttgart failed to break down a packed Belgian defence more than once. Stuttgart went ahead through unmarked Michael Frontzeck but Antwerp pulled back a vital away goal when Nico Broeckaert headed past Eike Immel. In the closing stages Stuttgart's Karl Allgower (twice), and Fritz Walter had goal attempts blocked.

Auxerre 0
Olympiakos Piraeus 0
Att: 18,000. **Ref:** Pauly (WG)
Auxerre on away goals: 1-1 agg
Auxerre: Martini - Catalano, Darras, Boli, Barret, Mazzolini, Guerreiro, Matysik, Scifo, Kovacs, Vahirua.
Olympiakos: Talikriadis - Apostolakis, Pakaturidis, Tsaluhidis, Karataidis, Tsiantakis, Mavromatis (Savidis 83), Detari, Drakopulos, Anastopulos, Mitropulos.
Auxerre reached European quarter-finals for the first time despite being only 11th in the French league. Bruno Martini's brilliance held the Greeks at bay in the first half. In the second half Auxerre hit back. Enzo Scifo was narrowly wide and Waldemar Matysik shot against the bar.

Karl-Marx-Stadt 0
Juventus 1 (Luigi De Agostini 21)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 27,800. **Ref: Smith (Scot)**
Juventus 3-1 on agg
KM-Stadt: Schmidt - Ziffert, Bitterman, Kohler, Illing, Muller, Barsikow, Steinmann, Wienhold, Heidrich, Keller (Melhorn 54).
Juventus: Tacconi - D Bonetti, De Agostini, Galia, Bruno, Fortunato, Aleinikov, Rui Barros (Brio 78), Zavarov, Marocchi, Schillaci (Casiraghi 82).
De Agostini scored from a free kick to give Juventus a decisive early advantage. After that keeper Stefano Tacconi was their other hero, with a string of fine saves from the East German forwards.

Kiev Dynamo 0
Fiorentina 0
Att: 80,000. **Ref:** Worrall (Eng)
Fiorentina 1-0 on agg
Kiev: Chanov - Besonov, Bal, Kuznetsov, Shmatovalenko, Rats, Mikhailichenko, Litovchenko, Zayets, Protasov, Salenko (Yuran 66).
Fiorentina: Landucci - Bioli, Volpecina, Iachini, Pin, Battistini, Kubik, Dunga, Dertycia, Di Chiara, Baggio.
Before the night's top attendance Fiorentina's Italian held out in freeng temperatures on a pitch dotted with ice. Roberto Baggio was man of the match. In the second half he was desperately unlucky when, after dribbling past three defenders, he saw his shot strike a post. Tempers flared in the closing stages.

Koln 3 (Goetz 59, 83, Ordenewitz 89)
Red Star 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref: Marko (Cz)**
Koln 3-2 on agg
Koln: Illgner - Steiner, Higl, Giske, Massler, Janssen (Rahn 46), Greiner (Britz 75), Littbarski, Sturm, Goetz, Ordenewitz.
Red Star: Milojevic - Drizic, Juric, Najdovski, Marovic, Kanatlarovski (Radinovic 61), Proseinecki, Stosic, Savicevic, Stojkovic, Lukic (Mrkela).
Red Star's disappointment over their second-half collapse was tempered by the prospect of receving almost £5million from the prospective summer transfer of star midfielder Dragan Stojkovic to Marseille. In the closing minutes Uwe Rahn and Milos Drizic were sent off, Slav coach Dragoslav Sekularac had to be restrained from attacking the referee, and one policeman was injured as 14 fans were arrested for fighting after the game.

Liege 3 (Frederick Waseige 4, Luk Ernes 30, Dannu Boffin 44)
Rapid Vienna 1 (Jan-Age Fjortoft 78)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Nemeth (Hun)
Liege 3-2 on agg
Liege: Munaron - Wegria, De Sart, Machiels, Habrant, Ernes, Waseige, Bosman, Boffin, Varga, Nijskens (Malbassa 88).
Rapid: Konsel - Kienast, Blisenec, Pecl, Brauneder, Schottel, Kranjcar (Pfeifenberger 56), Herzog, Reisinger, Keglevits, Fjortoft.
Liege owed qualification to keeper Jacques Munaron's penalty save from Norway's Jan-Afe Fjortoft in the 84th minute. The result was worth special celebration in the home of coach Robert Waseige. Son Frederic had scored their first goal. A Vincent Machiels cross created the second for Ernes and Boffin hit the third in first-half injury time.

FC Porto 2 (Rui Nascimento 44, Jorge Couto 64)
Hamburg 1 (Armin Eck 42)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Rothliesberger (Swz)
Hamburg in away goals rule: 2-2 agg
Porto: Vitor Baia - Joao Pinto (Domingos 66), Geraldao, Demol, Branoo - Rui Nascimento, Bandeirinha (Jaime Magalhaes 46), Semedo, Abdre, Madjer, Couto.
Hamburg: Golz - Bode, Schroder (Ballwanz 75), Kober, Beiersdorfer, Jensen, Sporl, Jusufi (Fischer 68), Thomas Von Heesen, Furtock, Eck.
Hamburg seized the initiative just before the interval when Armin Eck completed a solo break with a decisive shot beyond Vitor Baia. In the second half the fine form of goalkeeper Richard Golz held the Portuguese at bay.

Werder Bremen 5 (Riedle 25, 61, Rufer 55, Sauer 89, Eilts 90)
Napoli 1 (Careca 71)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,500. **Ref:** Soriano Aladren (Sp)
Werder 8-3 on agg
Bremen: Reck - Bratseth (Sauer 77), Borowka, Otten, Bockenfeld (Wolter 84), Votava, Neubarth, Eiults, Hermann, Riedle, Rufer.
Napoli: Giuliani - Fusi, Ferrara, Baroni (Carnevale 46), Francini, Coradini, De Napoli, Crippa, Maradona, Careca, Zola (Renica 78).
Despite a workmanlike show from skipper Diego Maradona, the Italians were no match for an inspired Bremen. Careca's only goal was poor consolation for the defeated UEFA Cup holders. As for Bremen, coach Otto Rehhagel said: "This is one of the most wonderful nights this club has ever enjoyed."

EUROPEAN SUPERCUP

First leg - November 23
Barcelona 1 (Amor 67)
Milan 1 (Van Basten 44pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fr)
Barcelona: Zubizarreta - Aloisio, Koeman, Serna, Eusebio, Milla, Baquero, Amor, Laudrup, Salinas (Roberto 65), Beguiristain.
Milan: Galli - Salvatore, Maldini, Fuser, Tassotti, Costacurta, Donadoni (Stroppa 84), Rijkaard, Van Basten, Evani, Massaro (Simone 88).
Milan, recently triumphant over Real Madrid in the Champions' Cup, returned to Spain for the Supercup opener under even more injury pressure. Star sweeper and skipper Franco Baresi had broken his arm ten days earlier in the Milanese derby against Inter. Nevertheless they took a deserved first-half lead through a Van Basten penalty and earned generous applause from the Catalan crowd. Barcelona hit back in the 67th minute. Beguiristain robbed Salvatore to serve up the pass from which Amor easily equalised.

SUPER CUP

Second leg (December 7)
Milan 1 (Alberigo Evani 55)
Barcelona 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Kohl (Aus)
Milan 2-1 on agg
Milan: Galli - Carobbi, Maldini, Fuser, Tassotti, Costacurta, Donadoni, Rijkaard, Van Basten, Evani, Massaro (Simone 65).
Barcelona: Zubizarreta - Lopez Recarte (Onesimo 74), Alesanco, Milla, Serena, Baquero, Jordi Roura (Soler 10), Eusebio, Salinas, Beguristain.
A shot from a free kick by Alberigo Evani decided the Supercup in favour of Milan despite the injury absences of Ancelotti, Baresi, Gullit and Colombo. Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff was reported to have used the opportunity of the trip to try to persuade Marco Van Basten to think seriously about the possibility of transferring to Barcelona after the World Cup finals.

ARAB CHAMPIONS' CUP

Final (Marrahesk, Dec 2): Widad Casablanca 3, Hilal (S Arab) 1.
Third Place: Jeunesse Sportive de Kabylie (Alg) 1, Etoile Sahel (Tun) 0.

FC Cologne v Red Star Belgrade.

LEAGUE TABLES AND RESULTS

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

ARGENTINA: National Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	16	9	5	2	15	5	23
Independiente	16	7	8	1	30	15	22
Rosario Central	16	7	6	3	16	11	20
Dep. Español	16	8	2	6	24	20	18
Gimnasia y Esgrima La Plata	16	6	6	4	13	9	18
Racing (Avellaneda)	16	4	9	3	18	18	17
Boca Juniors (x)	15	4	9	2	18	14	17
Talleres Córdoba	16	4	8	4	15	14	16
Dep. Mandiyu (Corrientes)	16	4	8	4	14	17	16
Estudiantes de La Plata	16	3	9	4	15	16	15
Platense	16	5	5	6	14	15	15
Newell's Old Boys	16	4	7	5	13	14	15
Velez Sarsfield	16	5	5	6	15	15	15
Ferrocarril Oeste	16	3	8	5	6	8	14
Instituto Córdoba	16	4	6	6	12	17	14
Argentinos Juniors (x)	15	5	3	7	17	20	13
Unión Santa Fe	16	1	11	4	17	22	13
Chaco For Ever	16	4	5	7	16	25	13
Racing Córdoba	16	4	4	8	14	20	12
San Lorenzo	16	3	6	7	13	22	12

(x) Match suspended after 43m., score 0-0.

COLOMBIA: Professional Championship (final round)
Group A (final): 1. Millonarios & At. Junior 8 pts; 3. America 6; 4. Independiente Medellin 2.
Group B: 1. Union Magdalena 7; 2. Nacional Medellin 5; 3. Independiente Santa Fe, Quindio 4 – one game to go, championship suspended.

URUGUAY: First Division
1. Progreso 12 points; 2. Peñarol 9; 3. Bella Vista 8; 4. Cerro, Rentistas, Defensores Sporting, Nacional 7; 8. Huracan Buceo, Central Español 5; 10. Liverpool, Wanderers, Danubio 4; 13. River Plate 3.

BRAZIL: National Championship
Group A: 1. Corinthians, Atletico Mineiro 16 pts; 3. Nautico Recife, Sao Paulo 14; 5. Flamengo, Botafogo 13; 7. Internacional (S. Paulo) 11; 8. Internacional (P. Alegre) 9.
Group B: 1. Palmeiras 18; 2. Portuguesa, Vasco da Gama, Cruzeiro 16; 5. Gremio 14; 6. Santos, Fluminense 12; 8. Goias 11.

PARAGUAY: First Division (final standings)
1. Olimpia 47 pts; 2. Guarani 42; 3. Cerro Porteño 37; 4. Colegiales 33; 5. Libertado 32; 6. Sportivo Luqueño 31; 7. Sol de America 30.

ECUADOR: First Division final round (3 games to go)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Bp	Pts
Barcelona	7	4	1	2	12	8	1	10
Nacional	7	3	2	2	12	10	1	9
Emelec	7	3	1	3	10	10	0.5	7.5
Dep. Quito	7	3	1	3	6	8	0.5	7.5
Macara	7	2	2	3	8	10	0.5	6.5
Filanbanco	7	1	3	3	11	13	0.5	5.5

CHILE: First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cobreloa	15	10	1	4	32	16	21
Universidad Catolica	15	7	6	2	25	12	20
Colo Colo	15	9	2	4	26	18	20
Dep. La Serena	15	5	9	1	19	11	19
O'Higgins	15	5	9	1	21	10	19
Naval	15	4	7	4	16	15	15
Cobresal	15	5	5	5	20	22	15
Union San Felipe	15	5	5	5	22	27	15
Dep. Concepción	15	4	7	4	9	13	15
Huachipato	15	4	5	6	12	15	13
Dep. Iquique	15	2	9	4	12	18	13
Fernandez Vial	15	3	6	6	18	20	12
Everton	15	3	6	6	13	22	12
Union Española	15	4	4	7	21	24	12
Rangers	15	3	4	8	13	21	10
Dep. Valdivia	15	2	5	8	14	29	9

VENEZUELA: First Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Maritimo	8	5	3	0	13
Tachira	8	6	1	1	13
Minerven	8	5	2	1	12
Pepeganga	8	5	2	1	12
Zamora	8	3	4	1	10
Mineros Guyana	8	3	3	2	9
Univ. de los Andes	8	4	1	3	9
Caracas FC	8	3	2	3	8
Trujillanos	8	2	3	3	7
Portuguesa	8	0	6	2	6
Internacional	8	2	2	4	6
Estudiantes	8	0	6	2	6
Maracaibo FC	8	2	2	4	6
Lara	8	1	4	3	6
Galicia	8	1	1	6	3
Italia	8	0	2	6	2

MEXICO: First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Group 1							
Puebla	12	7	3	2	20	10	17
Morelia	12	6	2	4	21	15	14
Trapuato	12	4	6	2	12	9	14
Univers. Autonoma Mexico	12	4	4	4	15	13	12
Monterrey	12	4	3	5	15	21	11
Group 2							
Cruz Azul	12	4	6	2	15	14	14
Universidad Guadalajara	12	4	6	2	16	14	14
Toluca	12	3	4	5	11	11	10
Atlante	12	4	2	6	15	20	10
Torreon	12	2	5	5	11	18	9
Group 3							
America	12	6	5	1	19	9	17
Atlas	12	7	1	4	14	8	15
Univ. Auton. Guadalajara	12	4	4	4	13	14	12
Univ. Auton. Tamaulipas	12	2	4	6	7	19	8
Tampico Madero	12	2	3	7	8	19	7
Group 4							
Necaxa	12	6	5	1	14	6	17
Universidad Nuevo Leon	12	5	4	3	26	22	14
Cuidad Juarez	12	4	2	6	13	20	10
Guadalajara	12	2	5	5	14	19	9
Veracruz	12	2	3	7	14	22	7

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERCUP

(for Libertadores Cup winners)

First round, second leg

OCTOBER 11

In Medellin, Colombia
Nacional (Colombia) 2 (Arango, Trellez)
Nacional (Uruguay) 0
H-T: 2-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Luis Felix (Brazil).
Nacional (Colombia) won on goals aggregate 3-2, tying 2-2 on points.
Nacional (Col): J. Castañeda, Carmona, Cassiani, Caicedo, Gomez, Luna, F. Perez, Restrepo, Garcia, Arango (A. Valderrama), Trellez (I. Castañeda).
Nacional (Ur): Sere, T. Gomez, Socca, N. Gomez, Cardaccio, Mozo, Saralegui, Relevez (Dely Valdez), Ostolaza, Moran, Garcia (Luis Noe).

Colombia's Nacional were on top for most of the game except in the early part of the second half when the Uruguayans tried to fight back and had two chances. By then both teams were down to 10 men as Mozo (Ur) and Carmona (Col) were sent off for fighting in the first half. The Colombian team fielded a reserve lineup as six of its players were training with the national team in preparation for a qualifying match against Israel.

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Cruzeiro (Brazil) 3
Olimpia (Paraguay) 0
Cruzeiro won 3-2 on aggregate (points 2-2).

Second round, first leg

OCTOBER 18

In Medellin, Colombia
Nacional (Colombia) 2 (Trellez 2)
Independiente (Argentina) 2 (Ludueña, Giusti)
H-T: 2-1. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Jose Martinez Bazan (Uruguay).
Nacional: J. Castañeda, Herrera, Caicedo, Porras, Luna, F. Perez, Restrepo, Garcia, A. Valderrama (Arboleda), Arango, Trellez.
Independiente: Pereyra, Altamirano, Vasquez, Monzon, Delgado, Bianco, Ludueña, Giusti, Insua, Reggiardo, Alfaro Moreno.

Still without six internationals, Nacional could not overcome Independiente who missed their midfield general, injured Bochini, and could not play their usual game. Nacional lost a 2-0 lead and were down to 10 men when Porras was sent off in the second half. Giusti equalised halfway through the second half. Independiente, 2-0 down after 40 minutes and making mistakes, pulled themselves together in the second half to show their cup fighting experience and play up to their usual standard.

OCTOBER 19

In Buenos Aires, Argentina
Boca Juniors (Argentina) 0
Racing Club (Argentina) 0
H-T: 0-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Juan Bava (Argentina).
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Stafuza, Simon, Marchesini, Cuciuffo, Giunta, Marangoni, Latorre, Gutierrez, Perazzo, Barberon (Hoyos).
Racing Club: Vivalda, Olaran, Brown, Fabbri, Miguez, Acuña, Perez, Olarticoechea, Escudero, Lanzidei, Cabral (Botana).

Boca Juniors were well on top in the second half, but missed Graciani in attack and failed to break down a good Racing defensive system.

OCTOBER 26

In Porto Alegre, Brazil
Gremio (Brazil) 0
Estudiantes de la Plata (Argentina) 1 (Cariaga)
H-T: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Francisco Escobar (Paraguay).
Gremio: Gomes, Alfinete, Luis Eduardo, Edinho, Helcio, Asis (Araujo), Jendir, Adilson Heleno, Cuca, Kita (Gilson), Paulo Egidio.
Estudiantes: Battaglia, Ramirez, Aguero, Trotta, Craviotto, Cariaga, Vargas, Peinado, Cardozo, MacAllister (Koyumchoglu), Marquez (Di Carlo).

Estudiantes controlled the match playing defensively in the first half while Gremio improved in the second. Estudiantes continued to play defensively and relied on counter-attack getting the only goal in this way six minutes from the end through Cariaga who was also awarded a penalty in the final minute which was saved by Gomes.

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Cruzeiro (Brazil) 1 (Hamilton)
Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) 1 (Airez)
H-T: 1-0. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Enrique Marin (Chile).
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Balú (Adilson), Gilson, Gilmar, Eduardo, Ademir, Betinho, Careca, Heider (Ramon), Hamilton, Edson.
Argentinos Juniors: Goyen, Malvarez, Cejas, O. Rodriguez, MacAllister, Caceres, Redondo, Cagna (L. Rodriguez), Castillo, Airez, Rudman (Vidal Gonzalez).

Cruzeiro dominated in the first half and had a penalty saved by Goyen after Hamilton had given them a 13-minute lead. Argentinos pressed more in the second half, but only managed to equalise just before the end.

Second Round, second leg

OCTOBER 26

In Avellaneda, Argentina
Racing Club (Argentina) 1 (Fabbri)
Boca Juniors (Argentina) 2 (Ponce pen., Caciuffo)
H-T: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Juan Carlos Loustau.
Boca Juniors won 3-1 on points, 2-1 on goals aggregate.
Racing: Vivalda, Olaran (Lamadrid), Brown, Fabbri, Miguez, Olarticoechea (Del Llano), Perez, Acufia, Escudero, Lanzidei, Castaño.
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Stafuza, Simon, Marchesini, Cuciuffo, Giunta, Marangoni, Ponce, Graciani, Perazzo, Barberon.

Racing attacked from the start in a fast match, but left loopholes at the back which enabled Boca to take a five-minute lead with a Ponce penalty. Racing continued to attack and equalised 10 minutes later, but in the second half Boca had midfield command and scored the winner 15 minutes after the break.

OCTOBER 25

In Avellaneda, Argentina
Independiente (Argentina) 2 (Alfaro Moreno, Monzon)
Nacional (Colombia) 0
H-T: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Jose Wright (Brazil).
Independiente won on aggregate points 3-1, goals 4-2.
Independiente: Pereyra, Altamirano, Monzon, Delgado, Rios (Morales), Bianco; Ludueña, Giusti, Insua (Lobo), Reggiardo, Alfaro Moreno.
Nacional: J. Castañeda, Carmona, Caicedo, Cassiani, Gomez, Garcia, Luna (A. Valderrama), Restrepo, Perez, Arboleda (Dalerno), Trellez.

Nacional, short of six international players, as well as injured and suspended, were no match for Independiente.

NOVEMBER 1

In La Plata, Argentina
Estudiantes de la Plata (Argentina) 0
Gremio (Brazil) 3 (Paulo Egidio, Cuca 2)
H-T: 0-1. **Ref:** Gaston Castro.
Gremio won on aggregate 3-1 on goals, drawing 2-2 on points.
Estudiantes: Battaglia, Craviotto, Trotta, Aguero, Ramirez, Peinado (Koyunchoglu), Vargas, Cardoso, Cariaga, Marquez (Di Carlo), McAllister.
Gremio: Mazaropi, Alfinete, Luis Eduardo, Edinho, Favio, Jandir, Lino, Cuca, Adilson Heleno, Kita (Vilson), Paulo Egidio.

Gremio, with better organisation, caused the surprise of the round by winning 3-0 away after losing 1-0 at home.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina
Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) 2 (Airez, Caceres)
Cruzeiro (Brazil) 0
H-T: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Oscar Ortube (Bolivia).
Argentinos Jrs won 3-1 on points, 3-1 on goals.
Argentinos Juniors: Goyen, Malvarez, Caceres, O. Rodriguez, MacAllister, Ortega, Redondo, Rudman (Mogrovejo), Castillo, Airez, Gonzalez (Cagna).
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Balu, Gilmar, Gilson, Eduardo, Edemir, Betinho, Careca, Heider, Hamilton, Edson.

Argentinos made the running with Cruzeiro being pressed back and just relying on counter-attack and the Argentine team did not let up after finally going ahead after 58 minutes and netted a second from the penalty spot.

Semi Finals, first leg

NOVEMBER 9

In Buenos Aires, Argentina
Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) 0
Independiente (Argentina) 1 (Giusti)
H-T: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Francisco Lamolina (Argentina).
Argentinos Juniors: Goyen, Malvarez, Caceres, O. Rodriguez, MacAllister, Ortega (Cagna), Redondo, Rudman (Mogrovejo), Castillo, Airez, Vidal Gonzalez.
Independiente: Pereyra, Morales, Monzon, Delgado (Lozano), Altamirano, Bianco, Ludueña, Giusti, Insua, Reggiardo (Artime), Alfaro Moreno.

Independiente dominated most of the way, specially in an excellent first half when they scored just before the break.

In Porto Alegre, Brazil
Gremio (Brazil) 0
Boca Juniors (Argentina) 0
H-T: 0-0. **Att:** 28,400. **Ref:** Juan D. Cardellino (Uruguay).
Gremio: Mazaropi, Fabio, Luis Eduardo, Vilson, Helcio, Jandir (Darci), Lino, Cuca, Adilson Heleno, Kita, Paulo Egidio (Assis).
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Stafuza, Simon, Marchesini, Cuciuffo, Giunta, Marangoni, Ponce, Latorre (Carrizo), Graciani, Barberon.

Gremio controlled the first half and had several good goal chances, but Boca Juniors improved greatly after the interval.

Semi Finals, second leg

NOVEMBER 15

In Avellaneda, Argentina
Independiente (Argentina) 2 (Insua, Reggiardo)
Argentinos Juniors (Argentina) 1 (Caceres)
H-T: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Ricardo Calabria (Argentina).
Independiente won 4-0 on points, 3-1 on goals aggregate.
Independiente: Pereyra, Morales, Monzon, Delgado, Altamirano, Bianco, Luduefia (Mufioz), Giusti, Insua, Reggiardo, Alfaro Moreno (Ubaldi).
Argentinos Juniors: Goyen, Malvarez, Caceres, O. Rodriguez, MacAllister, Ortega, Redondo, Rudman (Fernandez), Castillo, Airez, L. Rodriguez.

Argentinos Juniors, a goal behind from the first leg and a man short after 15 minutes – Osvaldo Rodriguez was sent off for a violent foul – nevertheless made it hard for Independiente to get going. Independiente went ahead right after the break, but still Argentinos would not give up and equalised five minutes later. A calmer Independiente however, as the minutes ticked by, gradually got on top and scored the winner after 63 minutes while Argentinos had two more men sent off in the final minutes (Caceres and Vidal Gonzalez) for protesting.

NOVEMBER 16

In Buenos Aires, Argentina
Boca Juniors (Argentina) 2 (Marangoni, Cuciuffo)
Gremio (Brazil) 0
H-T: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Paraguay).
Boca Juniors won 3-1 on points, 2-0 on goals aggregate.
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Stafuza, Simon, Marchesini, Cuciuffo, Giunta, Marangoni, Ponce, Latorre (Carrizo), Graciani, Perazzo (Berti).
Gremio: Mazaropi, Alfinete, Luiz Eduardo, Edinho (Vilson), Helcio, Jandir, Lino (Sergio Araujo), Cuca, Adilson Heleno, Kita, Paulo Egidio.

Boca Juniors, putting up one of their best performances of the season, scored both goals within the first 25 minutes.

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CUP

First leg

OCTOBER 13

In San Jose, Costa Rica
Herediano (Costa Rica) 2 (Wanchope, Rivers)
Universidad Guadalajara (Mexico) 1 (Mora O.)
H-T: 0-0. **Ref:** Freddy Burgos (Guatemala).
Herediano: Mora, Saborio, Chan, Mora, Obando, Camacho, Barquero, Carmona, Rivers, Orta, Rodriquez.
Univ. Guadalajara: Aguado, Sanchez, Araja, Vasquez, Cardona, Michel, Lopez, Hernandez, Da Silva, Perez, Mora.

This match was suspended at half-time, with no score on the day before due to heavy rain which flooded the field and continued the next day behind closed doors as law forbids public sports activities during working hours on week days.

LEAGUE TABLES AND RESULTS

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	16	10	4	2	33	7	24
Club Brugge	16	10	4	2	29	52	24
Mechelen	16	8	8	0	28	4	24
Antwerp	15	6	7	2	30	17	19
Cercle Bruges	16	7	4	5	22	18	18
Lokeren	16	6	5	5	20	22	17
Standard	16	5	7	4	19	17	17
Lierse	16	6	4	6	20	29	16
Kortrijk	16	5	6	5	16	21	16
Gent	15	5	5	5	18	18	15
Ekeren	16	6	2	8	21	22	14
Charleroi	16	5	4	7	20	21	14
Beveren	16	5	3	8	16	25	13
FC Liege	16	4	5	7	13	15	13
Beerschot	15	3	6	6	10	22	12
Waregem	15	3	4	8	16	27	10
RC Mechlin	16	2	5	9	11	24	9
St. Truiden	16	2	5	9	10	28	9

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta Prague	13	10	1	2	31	13	21
Bohemians	13	8	2	3	25	15	18
Slovan	14	5	7	2	11	7	17
Pl. Nitra	14	7	2	5	23	18	16
B. Ostrava	14	6	4	4	17	15	16
Dukla Prague	14	6	3	5	16	12	15
Vitkovice	14	7	1	6	21	23	15
S. Olomouc	14	5	4	5	23	19	14
Inter Brat	14	5	4	5	19	20	14
Slavia Prague	14	5	3	6	20	24	13
Dukla Bystrica	14	5	2	7	15	15	12
RH Cheb	14	5	2	7	18	20	12
Zbrojovka Brno	14	4	4	6	19	23	12
Spartak Trnava	14	3	5	6	11	17	11
DAC Dunajska	14	4	2	8	19	25	10
Povaszka Byst	14	2	2	10	13	33	6

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK	13	8	4	1	31	7	20
Olympiakos	13	8	4	1	21	7	20
Panathinaikos	13	7	6	0	25	11	20
Paok	13	8	3	2	17	8	19
OFi	13	7	2	4	19	12	16
Larissa	13	6	3	4	18	13	15
Doxa	13	4	5	4	16	13	13
Kalamaria	13	5	3	5	16	14	13
Panionios	13	5	3	5	20	21	13
Aris	13	4	4	5	15	16	12
Apollon	13	3	6	4	14	15	12
Heraklis	13	4	4	5	13	18	12
Levadiakos	13	7	1	5	20	26	11
Volos	13	4	2	7	16	24	10
Panserraikos	13	3	3	7	17	24	9
Ethnikos	13	2	3	8	5	17	7
Xanthi	13	2	1	10	6	30	5
Ionikos	13	1	2	10	10	31	4

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	17	8	6	3	33	15	22
Volendam	17	9	4	4	28	19	22
PSV Eindhoven	15	9	3	3	50	20	21
Roda JC	16	7	7	2	24	16	21
Vitesse	17	8	5	4	28	15	21
FC Twente	15	5	9	1	18	14	19
Fort. Sittard	16	5	7	4	14	15	17
Den Haag	16	7	2	7	32	32	16
FC Utrecht	16	7	2	7	19	25	16
Maastricht VV	16	5	6	5	23	31	16
RKC Waalwijk	16	5	5	6	20	24	15
Sparta	16	5	4	7	23	30	14
Groningen	14	3	7	4	18	20	13
NEC	16	4	5	7	20	31	13
Willem II	16	4	4	8	22	27	12
Feyenoord	17	3	6	8	23	30	12
Den Bosch	17	2	6	8	12	22	10
Haarlem	16	2	4	10	16	37	8

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	15	8	7	0	24	12	23
Inter	15	9	2	4	24	17	20
Sampdoria	15	7	5	3	22	14	19
Milan	15	8	3	4	20	12	19
Roma	15	7	5	3	23	19	19
Juventus	15	6	6	3	26	19	18
Atalanta	15	8	2	5	14	13	18
Bologna	15	5	7	3	14	15	17
Bari	15	3	9	3	17	16	15
Lazio	15	3	8	4	14	14	14
Lecce	15	5	3	7	14	19	13
Fiorentina	15	4	4	7	19	19	12
Udinese	15	3	6	6	20	25	12
Cesena	15	3	6	6	12	18	12
Genoa	15	3	5	7	13	17	11
Cremonese	15	2	6	7	16	22	10
Verona	15	2	5	8	11	21	9
Ascoli	15	2	5	8	9	20	9

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	15	10	3	2	??	15	23
Barcelona	15	9	1	5	35	15	19
Oviedo	15	6	7	2	20	9	19
Osasuna	15	8	3	4	19	14	19
Valencia	15	6	7	2	24	20	19
Atl. Madrid	15	7	5	3	20	16	19
Real Sociedad	15	7	4	4	15	13	18
Mallorca	15	5	7	3	12	10	17
Logrones	15	7	2	6	15	15	16
Zaragoza	15	6	3	6	23	25	15
Bilbao	15	5	4	6	16	17	14
Malaga	15	4	6	5	10	18	14
Sevilla	15	5	3	7	17	21	13
Castellon	15	3	7	5	12	17	13
Gijon	15	5	2	8	12	14	12
Valladolid	15	4	3	8	11	18	11
Tenerife	15	3	5	7	15	25	11
Cadiz	15	4	3	8	9	21	11
Celta	15	2	5	8	8	17	9
Rayo Vallecano	15	2	4	9	14	31	8

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St. Gallen	22	9	10	3	40	24	28
Neuchâtel X	22	11	5	6	38	32	27
Grasshoppers	22	9	7	6	31	24	25
Luzern	22	9	6	7	39	29	24
Sion	22	9	5	8	29	31	23
Lausanne	22	6	10	6	28	27	22
Lugano	22	8	6	8	36	35	22
Young Boys	22	7	7	8	29	29	21
Servette	22	7	7	8	34	36	21
Wettingen	22	7	5	10	18	27	19
Aarau	22	5	7	10	20	30	17
Bellinzona	22	5	5	12	31	49	15

The season resumes in mid-March after the winter break. The leading eight teams will compete for the championship with points halved in the 14-match final phase. The last four and the 12 top teams in the two-section second division play-off in two eight-team groups for next season's four vacant first division places. Qualified for title play-offs (in brackets bonus points to start with): St. Gallen (14), Xamax (14), Grasshoppers (13), Lucerne (12), Sion (12), Lausanne (11), Lugano (11), Young Boys (11). Servette, Wettingen, Aarau and Bellinzona will play-off against the best second division teams for 4 spots in first division.

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	20	11	5	4	39	21	27
Eint. Frankfurt	20	11	5	4	39	23	27
Leverkusen	20	8	11	1	27	14	27
Köln	20	10	5	5	32	27	25
Stuttgart	20	10	3	7	32	26	23
Dortmund	20	8	5	7	26	21	21
Nüremberg	20	7	6	7	29	23	20
Werder	20	6	8	6	29	24	20
Uerdingen	20	8	4	8	28	26	20
Mannheim	20	8	3	9	26	29	19
Bochum	20	8	3	9	26	32	19
Karlsruhe	20	5	8	7	16	25	18
St. Pauli	20	5	8	7	16	26	18
Hamburg	20	7	3	10	22	31	17
Kaiserslautern	20	4	8	8	26	35	16
F. Düsseldorf	20	4	7	9	25	32	15
Homburg	20	5	4	11	20	31	14
Borussia Mg	20	4	6	10	17	29	14

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Din. Zagreb	18	10	5	3	30	8	25
Red Star	17	10	2	5	41	24	20
Hajduk Split	18	9	2	7	27	20	19
Rijeka	18	8	4	6	16	15	19
Zeljeznicar	18	9	1	8	19	23	19
Partizan	18	9	3	6	29	22	18
Sloboda	18	9	3	6	24	20	18
Osijek	18	8	3	7	20	22	18
Buducnost	18	8	3	7	17	17	17
Rad	18	7	3	8	20	21	15
Borac	18	7	3	8	15	18	15
Vojvodina	18	7	2	9	20	27	15
Spartak	18	7	2	9	16	23	15
Olimpija	18	6	4	8	21	20	14
Velez	17	6	3	8	19	21	14
Radnicki	18	6	2	10	21	33	14
Sarajevo	18	6	3	9	21	29	13
Vardar	18	4	2	12	16	31	9

(Wins on penalties after regular time bring one point)

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bordeaux	22	15	4	3	34	9	34
Marseille	22	13	5	4	44	21	31
Sochaux	22	12	2	8	33	25	26
Monaco	22	8	9	5	19	14	25
Toulouse	22	8	8	6	25	23	24
Paris St Ger.	22	9	5	8	23	25	23
Lyon	21	9	4	8	24	25	22
St. Etienne	22	9	4	9	28	30	22
Toulon	22	7	8	7	19	26	22
Nantes	21	7	7	7	21	19	21
Lille	22	8	5	9	27	25	21
Auxerre	22	5	10	7	26	25	20
Caen	22	7	6	9	22	31	20
Metz	22	5	9	8	22	26	19
Cannes	22	7	5	10	25	30	19
Brest	22	8	3	11	16	23	19
Montpellier	22	7	4	11	29	33	18
Racing Paris	22	6	6	10	24	36	18
Mulhouse	22	6	5	11	23	29	17
Nice	22	4	9	9	23	32	17

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trabzonspor	11	7	3	1	22	11	24
Besiktas	11	7	2	2	25	7	23
Fenerbahce	11	7	1	3	23	12	22
Ankaragucu	11	4	5	2	9	6	17
Sariyer	11	4	4	3	16	15	16
Genclerbirligi	11	4	4	3	18	22	16
Galatasaray	11	4	3	4	15	9	15
Adanaspor	11	3	6	2	16	15	15
Malatyaspor	11	4	3	4	14	14	15
Boluspor	11	4	3	4	10	15	15
Zeytinburnu	11	4	2	5	14	14	14
Karsiyaka	11	4	1	6	20	17	13
Bursaspor	11	3	4	5	12	13	13
Altay	11	2	6	3	11	16	12
Samsunspor	11	3	2	6	10	15	11
Konyaspor	11	3	2	6	10	17	11
A.dermirspor	11	2	4	5	12	26	10
Sakaryaspor	11	1	3	7	9	22	6

Van der Linden (Anderlecht).

1988-90 EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Group 1

18.10.88	Greece v Denmark	2-2
18.10.88	Bulgaria v Rumania	2-1
1.11.88	Denmark v Bulgaria	1-3
1.11.88	Rumania v Greece	2-0
25. 4.89	Bulgaria v Denmark	6-0
25. 4.89	Greece v Rumania	1-0
16. 5.89	Denmark v Greece	3-0
16. 5.89	Rumania v Bulgaria	2-1
10.10.89	Denmark v Rumania	1-2
10.10.89	Bulgaria v Greece	2-0
14.11.89	Rumania v Denmark	3-1
14.11.89	Greece v Bulgaria	0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	6	5	0	1	16	4	10
Rumania	6	4	0	2	10	6	8
Denmark	6	1	1	4	8	16	3
Greence	6	1	1	4	3	11	3

Group 2

18.10.88	England v Sweden	1-1
18.10.88	Poland v Albania	0-0
4.11.88	Albania v Sweden	0-2
7. 3.89	Albania v England	0-2
25. 4.89	England v Albania	2-1
6. 5.89	Sweden v Poland	4-0
2. 6.89	England v Poland	2-1
5. 9.89	Sweden v England	1-0
7.10.89	Sweden v Albania	1-0
10.10.89	Poland v England	1-3
24.10.89	Poland v Sweden	1-1
14.11.89	Albania v Poland	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	6	4	2	0	10	2	10
England	6	4	1	1	10	5	9
Albania	6	1	1	4	2	7	3
Poland	6	0	2	4	3	11	2

Group 3

18.10.88	Soviet Union v Austria	2-2
1.11.88	Austria v Turkey	3-0
29.11.88	Turkey v East Germany	3-2
11. 4.89	East Germany v Turkey	0-0
25. 4.89	Soviet Union v East Germany	1-0
9. 5.89	Turkey v Soviet Union	0-3
19. 5.89	East Germany v Austria	2-0
5. 9.89	Austria v Soviet Union	0-2
7.10.89	East Germany v Soviet Union	3-2
24.10.89	Turkey v Austria	1-1
14.11.89	Soviet Union v Turkey	2-0
14.11.89	Austria v East Germany	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soviet Union	6	4	1	1	12	5	9
East Germany	6	3	1	2	8	6	7
Austria	6	1	2	3	6	8	4
Turkey	6	1	2	3	4	11	4

Group 4

30. 8.88	Finland v West Germany	0-3
13. 9.88	Iceland v Holland	1-1
28. 9.88	Finland v Iceland	2-1
18.10.88	West Germany v Holland	2-0
25. 4.89	Holland v West Germany	0-1
30. 5.89	Finland v Holland	1-1
31. 5.89	Iceland v West Germany	1-1
5. 9.89	Iceland v Finland	4-0
3.10.89	West Germany v Finland	2-0
10.10.89	Holland v Iceland	2-3
25.10.89	West Germany v Iceland	1-1
14.11.89	Holland v Finland	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Germany	6	4	2	0	10	2	10
Iceland	6	2	3	1	11	7	7
Holland	6	1	2	3	6	9	4
Finland	6	1	1	4	4	13	3

Group 5

13. 9.88	Norway v Scotland	1-1
27. 9.88	France v Norway	2-0
18.10.88	Scotland v Yugoslavia	0-2
18.11.88	Yugoslavia v France	2-2
7. 3.89	Scotland v France	2-3
24. 4.89	France v Yugoslavia	0-1
13. 6.89	Norway v Yugoslavia	0-1
5. 9.89	Norway v France	1-1
5. 9.89	Yugoslavia v Scotland	4-1
10.10.89	Yugoslavia v Norway	0-1
10.10.89	France v Scotland	3-1
14.11.89	Scotland v Norway	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	6	4	1	1	10	4	9
France	6	3	2	1	11	7	8
Norway	6	1	2	3	3	7	4
Scotland	6	1	1	4	7	13	3

Group 6

11.12.88	Cyprus v Hungary	0-0
22. 3.89	Cyprus v Spain	0-1
12. 4.89	Hungary v Cyprus	1-0
31. 5.89	Spain v Cyprus	1-0
10.10.89	Hungary v Spain	1-0
14.11.89	Spain v Hungary	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	4	3	0	1	3	1	6
Hungary	4	2	1	1	2	1	5
Cyprus	4	0	1	3	0	3	1

Group 7

15.11.88	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	0-3
14. 2.89	Portugal v Belgium	1-1
5. 4.89	Czechoslovakia v Luxembourg	4-0
25. 4.89	Portugal v Luxembourg	1-0
29. 4.89	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	1-1
26. 5.89	Luxembourg v Belgium	0-0
5. 9.89	Belgium v Portugal	1-1
5.10.89	Czechoslovakia v Portugal	1-0
9.10.89	Luxembourg v Portugal	0-3
24.10.89	Belgium v Luxembourg	1-0
14.11.89	Portugal v Czechoslovakia	0-3
29.11.89	Luxembourg v Czechoslovakia	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czechoslovakia	6	3	2	1	10	5	8
Belgium	6	2	4	0	7	3	8
Portugal	6	2	2	2	6	6	6
Luxembourg	6	0	2	4	1	11	2

Group 8

26. 4.89	Switzerland v Italy	0-0
6. 6.89	San Marino v Switzerland	0-5
4.10.89	San Marino v Italy	0-2
25.10.89	Italy v Switzerland	1-0
14.11.89	Switzerland v San Marino	3-0
29.11.89	Italy v San Marino	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	4	3	1	0	5	0	7
Switzerland	4	2	1	1	8	1	5
San Marino	4	0	0	4	0	12	0

WORLD CUP RESULTS AND TABLES

EUROPE

GROUP 1

9.10.88	Greece v Denmark	1-1
19.10.88	Bulgaria v Rumania	1-3
2.11.88	Rumania v Greece	3-0
2.11.88	Denmark v Bulgaria	1-1
26. 4.89	Greece v Rumania	0-0
26. 4.89	Bulgaria v Denmark	0-2
17. 5.89	Rumania v Bulgaria	1-0
17. 5.89	Denmark v Greece	7-1
11.10.89	Bulgaria v Greece	4-0
11.10.89	Denmark v Rumania	3-0
15.11.89	Greece v Bulgaria	1-0
15.11.89	Rumania v Denmark	3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	6	4	1	1	10	5	9
Denmark	6	3	2	1	15	6	8
Greece	6	1	2	3	3	15	4
Bulgaria	6	1	1	4	6	8	3

RUMANIA qualify for finals.

GROUP 2

19.10.88	England v Sweden	0-0
19.10.88	Poland v Albania	1-0
5.11.88	Albania v Sweden	1-2
8. 3.89	Albania v England	0-2
26. 4.89	England v Albania	5-0
7. 5.89	Sweden v Poland	2-1
3. 6.89	England v Poland	3-0
6. 9.89	Sweden v England	0-0
8.10.89	Sweden v Albania	3-1
11.10.89	Poland v England	0-0
25.10.89	Poland v Sweden	0-2
15.11.89	Albania v Poland	1-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	6	4	2	0	9	3	10
England	6	3	3	0	10	0	9
Poland	6	2	1	3	4	8	5
Albania	6	0	0	6	3	15	0

SWEDEN, ENGLAND qualify for the finals.

GROUP 3

31. 8.88	Iceland v Soviet Union	1-1
12.10.88	Turkey v Iceland	1-1
19.10.88	Soviet Union v Austria	2-0
19.10.88	East Germany v Iceland	2-0
2.11.88	Austria v Turkey	3-2
30.11.88	Turkey v East Germany	3-1
12. 4.89	East Germany v Turkey	0-2
26. 4.89	Soviet Union v East Germany	3-0
10. 5.89	Turkey v Soviet Union	0-1
20. 5.89	East Germany v Austria	1-1
31. 5.89	Soviet Union v Iceland	1-1
14. 6.89	Iceland v Austria	0-0
23. 8.89	Austria v Iceland	2-1
6. 9.89	Austria v Soviet Union	0-0
6. 9.89	Iceland v East Germany	0-3
20. 9.89	Iceland v Turkey	2-1
8.10.89	East Germany v Soviet Union	2-1
25.10.89	Turkey v Austria	3-0
15.11.89	Soviet Union v Turkey	2-0
15.11.89	Austria v East Germany	3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soviet Union	8	4	3	1	11	4	11
Austria	8	3	3	2	9	9	9
Turkey	8	3	1	4	12	10	7
East Germany	8	3	1	4	9	13	7
Iceland	8	1	4	3	6	11	6

SOV. UNION, AUSTRIA qualify for finals.

GROUP 4

31. 8.88	Finland v West Germany	0-4
14. 9.88	Holland v Wales	1-0
19.10.88	Wales v Finland	2-2
19.10.88	West Germany v Holland	0-0
24. 4.89	Holland v West Germany	1-1
31. 5.89	Wales v West Germany	0-0
31. 5.89	Finland v Holland	0-1
6. 9.89	Finland v Wales	1-0
4.10.89	West Germany v Finland	6-1
11.10.89	Wales v Holland	1-2
15.11.89	West Germany v Wales	2-1
15.11.89	Holland v Finland	3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	6	4	2	0	8	2	10
West Germany	6	3	3	0	13	3	9
Finland	6	1	1	4	4	16	3
Wales	6	0	2	4	4	8	2

HOLLAND, W. GERMANY qualify for finals.

GROUP 5

14. 9.88	Norway v Scotland	1-2
28. 9.88	France v Norway	1-0
19.10.88	Scotland v Yugoslavia	1-1
22.10.88	Cyprus v France	1-1
2.11.88	Cyprus v Norway	0-3
19.11.88	Yugoslavia v France	3-2
11.12.88	Yugoslavia v Cyprus	4-0
8. 2.89	Cyprus v Scotland	2-3
8. 3.89	Scotland v France	2-0
26. 4.89	Scotland v Cyprus	2-1
29. 4.89	France v Yugoslavia	0-0
21. 5.89	Norway v Cyprus	3-1
14. 6.89	Norway v Yugoslavia	1-2
5. 9.89	Norway v France	1-1
6. 9.89	Yugoslavia v Scotland	3-1
11.10.89	Yugoslavia v Norway	1-0
11.10.89	France v Scotland	3-0
28.10.89	Cyprus v Yugoslavia	1-2
15.11.89	Scotland v Norway	1-1
18.11.89	France v Cyprus	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	8	6	2	0	16	6	14
Scotland	8	4	2	2	12	12	10
France	8	3	3	2	10	7	9
Norway	8	2	2	4	10	9	6
Cyprus	8	0	1	7	6	20	1

YUGOSLAVIA, SCOTLAND qualify for the finals.

GROUP 6

21. 5.88	Northern Ireland v Malta	3-0
14. 9.88	Northern Ireland v Rep. Ireland	0-0
19.10.88	Hungary v Northern Ireland	1-0
16.11.88	Spain v Rep. Ireland	2-0
11.12.88	Malta v Hungary	2-2
21.12.88	Spain v Northern Ireland	4-0
22. 1.89	Malta v Spain	0-2
8. 2.89	Northern Ireland v Spain	0-2
8. 3.89	Hungary v Rep. Ireland	0-0
22. 3.89	Spain v Malta	4-0
12. 4.89	Hungary v Malta	1-1
26. 4.89	Malta v Northern Ireland	0-2
26. 4.89	Rep. Ireland v Spain	1-0
28. 5.89	Rep. Ireland v Malta	2-0
4. 6.89	Rep. Ireland v Hungary	2-0
6. 9.89	Northern Ireland v Hungary	1-2
11.10.89	Hungary v Spain	2-2
11.10.89	Rep. Ireland v Northern Ireland	3-0
15.11.89	Spain v Hungary	4-0
15.11.89	Malta v Rep. Ireland	0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	8	6	1	1	20	3	13
Rep. Ireland	8	5	2	1	10	2	12
Hungary	8	2	4	2	8	12	8
Northern Ireland	8	2	1	5	6	12	5
Malta	8	0	2	6	3	18	2

SPAIN, REP. IRELAND qualify for the finals.

GROUP 7

1. 9.88	Luxembourg v Switzerland	1-4
19.10.88	Luxembourg v Czechoslovakia	0-2
19.10.88	Belgium v Switzerland	1-0
16.11.88	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	0-0
16.11.88	Portugal v Luxembourg	1-0
15. 2.89	Portugal v Belgium	1-1
26. 4.89	Portugal v Switzerland	3-1
30. 4.89	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	2-1
19. 5.89	Czechoslovakia v Luxembourg	4-0
1. 6.89	Luxembourg v Belgium	0-5
7. 6.89	Switzerland v Czechoslovakia	0-1
6. 9.89	Belgium v Portugal	3-0
20. 9.89	Switzerland v Portugal	1-2
6.10.89	Czechoslovakia v Portugal	2-1
11.10.89	Luxembourg v Portugal	0-3
11.10.89	Switzerland v Belgium	2-2
25.10.89	Czechoslovakia v Switzerland	3-0
25.10.89	Belgium v Luxembourg	1-1
15.11.89	Portugal v Czechoslovakia	0-0
15.11.89	Switzerland v Luxembourg	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	8	4	4	0	15	5	12
Czechoslovakia	8	5	2	1	13	3	12
Portugal	8	4	2	2	11	8	10
Switzerland	8	2	1	5	10	14	5
Luxembourg	8	0	1	7	3	22	1

BELGIUM, CZECHOSLOVAKIA qualify for finals.

Winners and runners-up from groups 3, 5, 6 and 7 qualify for the finals along with the winners of groups 1, 2 and 4 plus the two runners-up from groups 1, 2 and 4 with the best comparative records.

AFRICA

ROUND 1

7. 8.88	Angola v Sudan	0-0
11.11.88	Sudan v Angola	1-2
	Angola 2-1 on agg	
	Zimbabwe w/o v Lesotho	
	Zambia w/o v Rwanda (withdrew)	
16. 7.88	Uganda v Malawi	1-0
30. 7.88	Malawi v Uganda	3-1
	Malawi 3-2 on agg	
3. 6.89	Libya v Burkino Faso	3-0
3. 7.89	Burkino Faso v Libya	2-0
	Libya 3-2 on agg	
7. 8.88	Ghana v Liberia	0-0
21. 8.88	Liberia v Ghana	2-0
	Liberia 2-0 on agg	
5. 8.88	Tunisia v Guinea	5-0
21. 8.88	Guinea v Tunisia	3-0
	Tunisia 5-3 on agg	
	Gabon w/o v Togo	

ROUND 2

Group A

6. 1.89	Algeria v Zimbabwe	3-0
22. 1.89	Zimbabwe v Ivory Coast	0-0
11. 6.89	Ivory Coast v Algeria	0-0
25. 6.89	Zimbabwe v Algeria	1-2
13. 8.89	Ivory Coast v Zimbabwe	5-0
25. 8.89	Algeria v Ivory Coast	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	4	3	1	0	6	1	7
Ivory Coast	4	1	2	1	5	1	4
Zimbabwe	4	0	1	3	1	10	1

Group B

6. 1.89	Egypt v Liberia	2-0
7. 1.89	Kenya v Malawi	1-1
21. 1.89	Malawi v Egypt	1-1
22. 1.89	Liberia v Kenya	0-0
10. 6.89	Kenya v Egypt	0-0
11. 6.89	Liberia v Malawi	1-0
24. 6.89	Malawi v Kenya	1-0
25. 6.89	Liberia v Egypt	1-0
11. 8.89	Egypt v Malawi	1-0
12. 8.89	Kenya v Liberia	1-0
25. 8.89	Egypt v Kenya	2-0
26. 8.89	Malawi v Liberia	0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	6	3	2	1	6	2	8
Liberia	6	2	2	2	2	3	6
Malawi	6	1	3	2	3	4	5
Kenya	6	1	3	2	2	4	5

Group C

7. 1.89	Nigeria v Gabon	1-0
8. 1.89	Cameroon v Angola	1-1
22. 1.89	Gabon v Cameroon	1-3
22. 1.89	Angola v Nigeria	2-2
10. 6.89	Nigera v Cameroon	2-0
10. 6.89	Angola v Gabon	2-0
25. 6.89	Angola v Cameroon	1-2
25. 6.89	Gabon v Nigeria	2-1
12. 8.89	Nigeria v Angola	1-0
13. 8.89	Cameroon v Gabon	2-1
27. 8.89	Cameroon v Nigeria	1-0
27. 8.89	Gabon v Angola	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	6	4	1	1	9	6	9
Nigeria	6	3	1	2	7	5	7
Angola	6	1	2	3	6	7	4
Gabon	6	2	0	4	5	9	4

Group D

8. 1.89	Morocco v Zambia	1-0
8. 1.89	Zaire v Tunisia	3-1
22. 1.89	Tunisia v Morocco	2-1
22. 1.89	Zambia v Zaire	4-2
11. 6.89	Zaire v Morocco	0-0
11. 6.89	Zambia v Tunisia	1-0
25. 6.89	Zambia v Morocco	2-1
25. 6.89	Tunisia v Zaire	1-0
13. 8.89	Morocco v Tunisia	0-0
13. 8.89	Zaire v Zambia	1-0
25. 8.89	Tunisia v Zambia	1-0
27. 8.89	Morocco v Zaire	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	6	3	1	2	5	5	7
Zambia	6	3	0	3	7	6	6
Zaire	6	2	2	2	7	7	6
Morocco	6	1	3	2	4	5	5

ROUND 3

8.10.89	Algeria v Egypt	0-0
8.10.89	Cameroon v Tunisia	2-0
22.10.89	Egypt v Algeria	1-0
19.11.89	Tunisia v Cameroon	0-1

EGYPT (1-0 agg) and CAMEROON (3-0 agg) qualify for finals.

ASIA

WEST ASIA

Group 1: Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Qatar.

6. 1.89	Qatar v Jordan	1-0
6. 1.89	Oman v Iraq	1-1
13. 1.89	Oman v Qatar	0-0
13. 1.89	Jordan v Iraq	0-1
20. 1.89	Jordan v Oman	2-0
20. 1.89	Qatar v Iraq	1-0
27. 1.89	Jordan v Qatar	1-1
27. 1.89	Iraq v Oman	3-1
3. 2.89	Qatar v Oman	3-0
3. 2.89	Iraq v Jordan	4-0
10. 2.89	Oman v Jordan	0-2
10. 2.89	Iraq v Qatar	2-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qatar	6	3	3	0	8	3	9
Iraq	6	3	2	1	11	5	8
Jordan	6	2	1	3	5	7	5
Oman	6	0	2	4	2	11	2

Group 2 (Bahrain withdrew)

10. 3.89	Yemen AR v Syria	0-1
15. 3.89	Saudi Arabia v Syria	5-4
20. 3.89	Yemen AR v Saudi Arabia	0-1
25. 3.89	Syria v Yemen AR	2-0
30. 3.89	Syria v Saudi Arabia	0-0
5. 4.89	Saudi Arabia v Yemen AR	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S. Arabia	4	3	1	0	7	4	7
Syria	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Yemen AR	4	0	0	4	0	5	0

Group 3: UAE, Kuwait, Pakistan (RP 'South' Yemen withdrew).

6. 1.89	Pakistan v Kuwait	0-1
13. 1.89	Kuwait v UAE	3-2
20. 1.89	UAE v Pakistan	5-0
27. 1.89	Kuwait v Pakistan	2-0
3. 2.89	UAE v Kuwait	1-0
10. 2.89	Pakistan v UAE	1-4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UAE	4	3	0	1	12	4	6
Kuwait	4	3	0	1	6	3	6
Pakistan	4	0	0	4	1	2	0

EAST ASIA

Group 4: (India withdrew so Nepal switched from Group 5)

Following matches all in S. Korea:

23. 5.89	Malaysia v Nepal	2-0
23. 5.89	Singapore v S. Korea	0-3
25. 5.89	Malaysia v Singapore	1-0
25. 5.89	Nepal v S. Korea	0-9
27. 5.89	Singapore v Nepal	3-0
27. 5.89	S. Korea v Malaysia	3-0

Following matches all in Singapore:

3. 6.89	Singapore v Malaysia	2-2
3. 6.89	S. Korea v Nepal	4-0
5. 6.89	Malaysia v S. Korea	0-3
5. 6.89	Nepal v Singapore	0-7
7. 6.89	Singapore v S. Korea	0-3
7. 6.89	Malaysia v Nepal	3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	6	6	0	0	25	0	12
Malaysia	6	3	1	2	8	8	7
Singapore	6	2	1	3	12	9	5
Nepal	6	0	0	6	0	28	0

Group 5

20. 2.89	Thailand v Bangladesh	1-0
23. 2.89	China v Bangladesh	2-0
23. 2.89	Thailand v Iran	0-3
27. 2.89	Bangladesh v Iran	1-2
28. 2.89	Thailand v China	0-3
4. 3.89	Bangladesh v China	0-2
8. 3.89	Bangladesh v Thailand	3-1
17. 3.89	Iran v Bangladesh	1-0
30. 5.89	Iran v Thailand	3-0
15. 7.89	China v Iran	2-0
22. 7.89	Iran v China	3-2
29. 7.89	China v Thailand	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	6	5	0	1	13	3	10
Iran	6	5	0	1	12	7	10
Bangladesh	6	1	0	5	4	9	2
Thailand	6	1	0	5	2	14	2

Group 6

21. 5.89	Indonesia v N. Korea	0-0
21. 5.89	Hong Kong v Japan	0-0
27. 5.89	Hong Kong v N. Korea	1-2
28. 5.89	Indonesia v Japan	0-0
4. 6.89	Hong Kong v Indonesia	1-1
4. 6.89	Japan v N. Korea	2-1
11. 6.89	Japan v Indonesia	5-0
18. 6.89	Japan v Hong Kong	0-0
25. 6.89	N. Korea v Japan	2-0
2. 7.89	N. Korea v Hong Kong	4-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Korea	5	3	1	1	9	4	7
Japan	6	2	3	1	7	3	7
Hong Kong	6	0	3	3	5	10	3
Indonesia	5	1	3	1	4	8	3

Round Two

(Play-off section in Singapore, except for UAE v S. Korea in Kuala Lumpur and S. Arabia v N. Korea in Kuanton).

12.10.89	UAE v N. Korea	0-0
12.10.89	China v Saudi Arabia	2-1
13.10.89	S. Korea v Qatar	0-0
16.10.89	Qatar v Saudi Arabia	1-1
16.10.89	S. Korea v N. Korea	1-0
17.10.89	China v UAE	1-2
20.10.89	China v S. Korea	0-1
20.10.89	N. Korea v Qatar	2-0
21.10.89	Saudi Arabia v UAE	0-0
24.10.89	UAE v Qatar	1-1
24.10.89	N. Korea v China	0-1
25.10.89	Saudi Arabia v S. Korea	0-2
28.10.89	UAE v S. Korea	1-1
28.10.89	Saudi Arabia v N. Korea	2-0
28.10.89	Qatar v China	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	5	3	2	0	5	1	8
UAE	5	1	4	0	4	3	6
Qatar	5	1	3	1	4	5	5
China	5	2	0	3	5	6	4
S. Arabia	5	1	2	2	4	5	4
N. Korea	5	1	1	3	2	4	3

S. KOREA, UAE qualify for finals.

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICA

Round 1

19. 6.88	Antigua v Neth. Antilles	0-1
29. 7.88	Neth. Antilles v Antigua	3-1
	Neth. Antilles 4-1 on agg, aet	
12. 5.88	Jamaica v Puerto Rico	1-0
29. 5.88	Puerto Rico v Jamaica	1-2
	Jamaica 3-1 on agg	
17. 4.88	Guyana v Trinidad/Tobago	0-4
8. 5.88	Trinidad/Tobago v Guyana	1-0
	Trinidad/Tobago 5-0 on agg	
17. 7.88	Costa Rica v Panama	1-1
31. 7.88	Panama v Costa Rica	0-2
	Costa Rica 3-1 on agg	
30. 4.88	Cuba v Guatemala	0-1
15. 5.88	Guatemala v Cuba	1-1
	Guatemala 2-1 on agg	

Round Two

1.10.88	Neth. Antilles v El Salvador	0-1
16.10.88	El Salvador v Neth. Antilles	5-0
	El Salvador 6-0 on agg	
30.10.88	Trinidad/Tobago v Honduras	0-0
13.11.88	Honduras v Trinidad/Tobago	1-1
	Trinidad/Tobago on away goal: 1-1 agg	
24. 7.88	Jamaica v United States	0-0
13. 8.88	United States v Jamaica	5-1
	United States 5-1 on agg	
9.10.88	Guatemala v Canada	1-0
15.10.88	Canada v Guatemala	3-2
	Guatemala on away goals: 3-3 agg	
	Costa Rica w/o v Mexico	

Round Three

19. 3.89	Guatemala v Costa Rica	1-0
2. 4.89	Costa Rica v Guatemala	2-1
16. 4.89	Costa Rica v United States	1-0
30. 4.89	United States v Costa Rica	1-0
13. 5.89	United States v Trinidad/Tobago	1-1
28. 5.89	Trinidad/Tobago v Costa Rica	1-1
11. 6.89	Costa Rica v Trinidad/Tobago	1-0
17. 6.89	United States v Guatemala	2-1
25. 6.89	El Salvador v Costa Rica	2-4
16. 7.89	Costa Rica v El Salvador	1-0
30. 7.89	Trinidad/Tobago v El Salvador	2-0
13. 8.89	El Salvador v Trinidad/Tobago	0-0
20. 8.89	Guatemala v Trinidad/Tobago	0-1
3. 9.89	Trinidad/Tobago v Guatemala	2-1
17. 9.89	El Salvador v United States	0-1
8.10.89	Guatemala v United States	0-0
5.11.89	United States v El Salvador	0-0
18.11.89	Trinidad/Tobago v United States	0-1
19.11.89	Guatemala v El Salvador	OFF
26.11.89	El Salvador v Guatemala	OFF

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa Rica	8	5	1	2	10	6	11
United States	8	4	3	1	6	3	10
Trinidad/Tobago	8	3	3	2	7	5	9
Guatemala	6	1	1	4	4	7	3
El Salvador	6	0	2	4	2	8	2

COSTA RICA, USA qualify for finals.

OCEANIA

Round 1

11.12.88	Taiwan v New Zealand	0-4
18.12.88	New Zealand v Taiwan	4-1
	New Zealand 8-1 on agg	
26.11.88	Fiji v Australia	1-0
3.12.88	Australia v Fiji	5-1
	Australia 5-2 on agg	

Round 2

5. 3.89	Israel v New Zealand	1-0
12. 3.89	Australia v New Zealand	4-1
19. 3.89	Israel v Australia	1-1
2. 4.89	New Zealand v Australia	2-0
9. 4.89	New Zealand v Israel	2-2
16. 4.89	Australia v Israel	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	4	1	3	0	5	4	5
Australia	4	1	2	1	6	5	4
N. Zealand	4	1	1	2	5	7	3

ISRAEL qualified to play Colombia for place in the finals.

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

20. 8.89	Bolivia v Peru	2-1
27. 8.89	Peru v Uruguay	0-2
3. 9.89	Bolivia v Uruguay	2-1
10. 9.89	Peru v Bolivia	1-2
17. 9.89	Uruguay v Bolivia	2-0
24. 9.89	Uruguay v Peru	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	4	3	0	1	7	2	6
Bolivia	4	3	0	1	6	5	6
Peru	4	0	0	4	2	8	0

URUGUAY qualify for finals.

Group 2

20. 8.89	Colombia v Ecuador	2-0
27. 8.89	Paraguay v Colombia	2-1
3. 9.89	Ecuador v Colombia	0-0
10. 9.89	Paraguay v Ecuador	2-1
24. 9.89	Colombia v Paraguay	2-1
1.10.89	Ecuador v Paraguay	3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colombia	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Paraguay	4	2	0	2	5	6	4
Ecuador	4	1	1	2	3	3	3

COLOMBIA qualified to play Israel for place in finals.

Group 3

30. 7.89	Venezuela v Brazil	1-3
6. 8.89	Venezuela v Chile	1-3
13. 8.89	Chile v Brazil	1-1
20. 8.89	Brazil v Venezuela	6-0
27. 8.89	Chile v Venezuela	5-0
3. 9.89	Brazil v Chile	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	4	3	1	0	12	2	7
Chile	4	2	1	1	9	4	5
Venezuela	4	0	0	4	2	17	0

BRAZIL qualified for the finals.

SOUTH AMERICA/OCEANIA

15.10.89	Colombia v Israel	1-0
30.10.89	Israel v Colombia	0-0

COLOMBIA qualify for finals.

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CLAESEN FROM PAGE 42

● CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42

team and certainly created more chances. Mechelen's saviour was undoubtedly goalkeeper Preud'homme who denied the visitors on a number of occasions and ensured that the gap at the top did not alter.

Meanwhile Home Farm's Under-16s are maintaining their unbeaten run. They have not lost a game in domestic competition since December 1983 and at the time of writing had gone 190 games without defeat. However, the team seems destined to break up at the end of this season. Most of the lads, who have played together since they were under 10, have been on trial with English clubs.

It was, I supposed, a point gained for Anderlecht, one which was to assume more significance at a later date. So, with Anderlecht, Mechelen and Brugge within striking distance of each other, there was no shortage of interest.

Mechelen, incidentally, who owe much of their success to the Dutch influence on and off the field have been embroiled in a controversy with the Dutch FA, over the release of four players for the centenary match against Brazil on December 20.

Four Mechelen players Bosman, *Hofkens*, Rutjes and Erwin Koeman are current Dutch internationals who, especially considering the availability of the Milan duo, Rijkaard and van Basten because of world club championship commitments in Tokyo three days before, were badly needed to give some meaning to a match that was losing its lustre.

Mechelen, however, had to play a Belgian cup tie against Lokeren on the same day, and general manager Paul Courant, wrote to the Dutch FA to explain why they would not be available. The issue did nothing to improve Dutch-Belgian relations.

Friendly

Mechelen's feelings on the matter are understandable. Moreover, as it was only a friendly, albeit a prestigious one, the Belgians' needs clearly were more pressing.

The prospect of a cup exit would reduce Mechelen's options, especially as Anderlecht's surprising, though temporary, slump had to be capitalised on. The trouble at Parc Astrid began when Gent were the visitors; few expected anything other than an Anderlecht victory.

Gent, occupying a comfortable mid-table position had taken 11 points from the same number of games prior to playing Anderlecht. Always an awkward proposition at home, indifferent away form did not suggest that by the end of a memorable ninety minutes, Gent would emerge victorious by a single goal.

Astonishingly, Anderlecht remained on top; Mechelen's inability to forsake caution away from home ensured another draw against the much-improved Cercle Brugge – but the deficit had been reduced to one point.

The other title contenders did not falter: Antwerp easily beat Lierse 4-1, while Club won by the odd goal in three away to Racing Mechelen. And, as Antwerp succumbed to Beveren the following week (3-1), Brugge's win over Lokeren enabled them to move into joint second place ... with Anderlecht.

In what was probably the surprise result of the season, Anderlecht had no answer to the passion generated by newly-promoted Germinal Ekeren, who romped home by 3-1, to inflict a defeat which suggested that the cup holders had gone stale.

DIARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

DENMARK: Sepp Piontek agrees to stay on as manager for another four years despite the World Cup qualifying failure.

ENGLAND: Nigel Martyn becomes Britain's first million-pound goalkeeper as he leaves third division Bristol Rovers to join Crystal Palace.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

ACTION: Egypt qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time since they were last staged in Italy, in 1934, as they beat Algeria 1-0 in Cairo in an African zone decider.

HOLLAND: Holland's 1988 European championship-winning players are threatening to sue the KNVB, claiming they are owed £60,000 from advertising rights negotiated since the European title success.

ITALY: Milan officials say Ruud Gullit will be ready for a return to action in six weeks after medical checks by Belgian specialists and in an all-clear for a return to light training.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA confirms that the outstanding World Cup qualifiers in North/Central America between El Salvador and Guatemala will be played – both because they have no bearing on the outcome of the group and because of the civil unrest in El Salvador.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

ACTION: France complete their World Cup programme with a 2-0 win over Cyprus in Toulouse.

ITALY: Former coach Nils Liedholm and current skipper Franco Baresi are among Milan players and officials convicted by a Milan court giving judgment in the fraud trial against former president Giuseppe Farina. He and five other players are convicted and sentenced to various fines and jail terms. Some 20 other players are acquitted. The jail sentences are all suspended pending appeal but it is assumed they will never be served.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich stays top of the table, ahead of Leverkusen and Koln on goal difference, despite losing a two-goal lead and having to be satisfied with a 2-2 draw against Borussia Dortmund.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

ACTION: The United States qualify for the World Cup finals thanks to a 1-0 win over Trinidad and Tobago in Port of Spain ... Cameroon also qualify, thanks to a 1-0 win over Tunisia in the last African decider.

BELGIUM: Mechelen go top as Anderlecht lose a second successive match, this time by 3-1 to struggling Ekeren.

HOLLAND: Crack shot Romario scores four times as PSV win 7-1 away to Utrecht.

ITALY: Roberto Baggio confirms his reputation with a hat-trick in Fiorentina's 5-1 thrashing of Ascoli. Napoli stay top despite being held 1-1 at home by Sampdoria. Maradona scores Napoli's goal, from a penalty. Milan win the San Siro derby with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Inter. Van Basten, Fuser and Massaro score the goals. But skipper Franco Baresi breaks an arm and is likely to be out for a month.

PORTUGAL: Porto stay top thanks to a hat-trick from Rabah Madjer which inspires a 4-1 win over Feirense.

SPAIN: A goal by Manolo brings Atletico Madrid a 1-0 win over Barcelona, allowing Real Madrid to open up a three-point lead at the top of the table. Madrid beat Tenerife 3-2 away thanks to two late goals from Hugo Sanchez.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

FRANCE: Marseille sign new national team star Philipe Deschamps from Nantes.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich sell Norwegian defender Erland Johnsen to Chelsea.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

ACTION: In the UEFA Cup third round, first leg, Antwerp beat Stuttgart 1-0.

BELGIUM: Retired national manager Guy Thys agrees to stay on for two more years as technical coordinator.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: The week's league programme is postponed because of civil unrest over the domestic political situation.

HOLLAND: Ajax announce that Steaua and Real Madrid have already agreed to take part in an international tournament to help tide them over the absence from Europe which will be caused by UEFA's suspension.

ITALY: Milan and Ruud Gullit are reported to be at loggerheads over the club's delay in ratifying his new 11-million-dollar three-year contract following his injury problems ... Lazio fine Brazil striker Amarildo after his expulsion in the weekend derby against Roma.

POLAND: The federation announces that transfer restrictions will be eased.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid members vote to go ahead with the club's Spanish cup visit to Real Madrid. President Jesus Gil had proposed pulling out of the match in protest at 'refereeing favours' to Real.

SWITZERLAND: Vienna's Prater stadium will host the 1990 European Champions' Cup Final, UEFA decides. The Cup-winners' Cup Final will go to Gothenburg.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

ACTION: Holders Napoli's 3-2 home defeat by Werder Bremen is the big shock in the UEFA Cup third round first leg results.

COLOMBIA: The federation cancels the rest of the championship after the murder of referee Alvaro Ortega.

FRANCE: Bordeaux loan West German veteran Manni Kaltz to Mulhouse ... in midweek league action, Marseille beat Monaco 3-1.

EUROPE'S QUARTER-FINALS

Champions' Cup: CFCA Sredets Sofia v Marseille; Mechelen v Milan; Bayern Munich v PSV Eindhoven; Benfica v Dnepr.

Cup-winners' Cup: Sampdoria v Grasshoppers; Villadolid v Monaco; Dinamo Bucharest v Partizan Belgrade; Anderlecht v Admira Wacker.

UEFA Cup: Fiorentina v Auxerre; Koln v Antwerp; FC Liege v Werder Bremen; Hamburg v Juventus.

To be played: March 7 and 21.

TRINIDAD: World Cup star Dwight York joins English first division club Aston Villa – pending a work permit.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

ACTION: Barcelona and Milan drew 1-1 in Nou Camp in their European Supercup first leg.

FRANCE: Toulon forward Philippe Anziani is suspended for four weeks after failing a dope test which revealed traces of a sedative.

HOLLAND: Three men accused of plotting explosive offences at the World Cup tie against Finland are released by a court in Amsterdam on bail.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

SWEDEN: IFK right back Roland Nilsson, on trial with Sheffield Wednesday, says he is also considering an offer from Manchester United.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

FRANCE: Marseille are held 0-0 at Nantes – with Philippe Deschamps making his Marseille debut against his old team. Bordeaux beat Paris Saint-Germain 3-1 in the Parc des Princes to extend their lead to three points.

HOLLAND: Romario is unstoppable again. He scores twice as PSV beat Fortuna Sittard 2-0 to stay top of the table.

SPAIN: Real Madrid thrash Zaragoza 7-2 with Hugo Sanchez hitting two more goals to take his total for the season to 14.

WEST GERMANY: Injury-hit Bayern crash 4-0 to Nurnberg, their worst defeat in four years. Koln win 2-1 at Bochum to take over at the top.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

AUSTRIA: FK Austria beat Grazer AK 7-1 in a match played in freezing conditions described by one newspaper as, for FK Austria, a "holiday on ice."

BELGIUM: Both Mechelen and Anderlecht are held goalless, so the positions remain unchanged at the top of the table. Mechelen draw 0-0 at Beerschot while Anderlecht hold out against Club Brugge.

BULGARIA: CFKA beat Vratsa 6-0 to extend their lead at the top over Slavia to six points. Slavia are held goalless away to Lokomotiv Plovdiv.

COLOMBIA

CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Fiorentina's Dertycia and Udinese's Lucci clash in Italian League action.